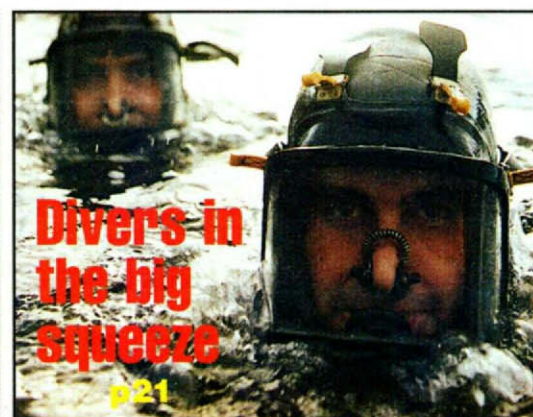


Navy News

PLAIN ENGLISH CAMPAIGN AWARD WINNER

OCTOBER 1999 80p



GLASGOW ON GUARD IN TIMOR

READY FOR ANY trouble should it come her way, HMS Glasgow is playing a leading role in ensuring safe passage for seaborne elements of the United Nations' Australian-led force bringing relief to East Timor.

Marines in spearhead

ROYAL Marines were among the first troops flown in to Dili. They had been deployed to Darwin from UK in preparation for the move.

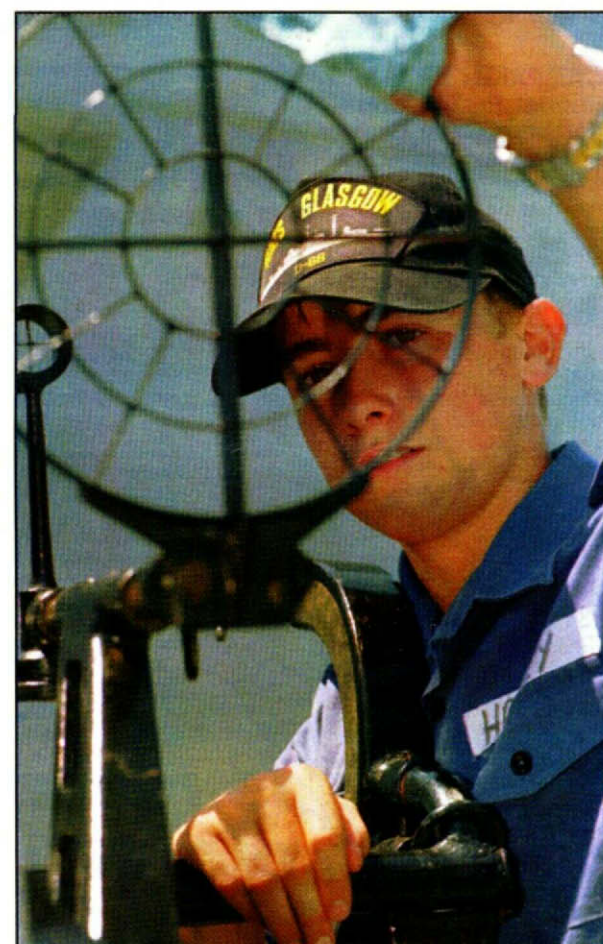
A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence told *Navy News*: "A small contingent of about 20 Royal Marines helped secure the airport for the initial deployment. Their role to secure the ground will continue in the near future."

In line with MOD policy, he declined to confirm reports that the Marines were members of the Special Boat Squadron.

The Type 42 air defence destroyer arrived off the East Timor capital of Dili as *Navy News* went to press, having led one of three groups of ships loaded with heavy equipment and vehicles.

Our correspondent on board, *Paul Parrack*, reported that she and the New Zealand frigate HMNZS Te Kaha had escorted the Australian heavy-lift ship HMAS Tobruk to the shores of East Timor.

In an operation dubbed 'Stabilise' by the Australians, and – more cryptically – 'Langar' by the British, the warships closed up in defence watches, ready to combat any hostile act whether from sea or air. Speaking to *Navy News*, Glasgow's



● Keeping his sights clear is OM(AW) Neil Hartley as HMS Glasgow (below) undertakes her journey into the unknown.
Pictures: PO(PHOT) Dave Coombes



■ Turn to back page

Marines General heads think tank

FIRST Director General of a new Ministry of Defence 'think tank' is Maj Gen Tony Milton RM. As a Brigadier he headed the Joint Doctrine and Concepts Centre (JDCC) study team as well as the implementation team set up in April.

Five Assistant Directors are heading branches concerned with doctrine, concepts, peace support

operations, international matters and science and technology.

The job of Director of the centre will rotate between the three Armed Services. He reports routinely to the Policy Director on MOD Central Staff and to the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff on military doctrine matters.

General Milton has previously served at MOD HQ, 3 Commando Brigade HQ, the Royal College of

Defence Studies and is a previous Commanding Officer of 40 Commando.

The Centre, envisaged by the Strategic Defence Review, will formulate, develop and review joint doctrine at the military-strategic, operational and joint tactical levels.

It will co-ordinate single-Service tactical doctrine and provide the UK input to Allied multinational doctrine.

Cavalier fighter honoured by Trust

A FORMER sailor who campaigned for years for the rescue of HMS Cavalier, Britain's only remaining World War II destroyer, is to be presented with the World Ship Trust Award.

Sid Anning, Chairman of the HMS Cavalier Association, will receive the award at a luncheon in London on October 13 where the guest speaker will be the Cavalier Association's president, Rear Admiral John Hervey.

The award has been made in recognition of Mr Anning's "outstanding achievement" in the preservation of the Cavalier.

Meanwhile *Navy News* has been appointed to membership of the Friends of HMS Cavalier Trust.

We received the honour in recognition of our support for the fighting fund set up by the Friends of HMS Cavalier Trust "for the purpose of preserving this historic Royal Navy fighting ship."

All donations or communications to the Trust should be directed to the chairman, M. A. Keir BEM, 37 Lyndhurst Avenue, Rainham, Gillingham, Kent ME8 0HF.

A specially made plaque has been presented to Great Woking branch of the Royal British Legion in recognition of its help in raising funds for the Cavalier campaign. The plaque was presented to branch representative Len Knight by Chatham World Naval Base Director Bill Fowler on board the ship.

Carthia found

WRECK of the liner Carthia, which rescued passengers from the Titanic, has been found 185 miles west of Cornwall.

Graham Jessop, of Argosy International, said his team had located her in 600ft of water where she sank after being torpedoed by a U-boat in 1918.

Campaign for Enigma sailor tops £4,000

A CAMPAIGN for a local memorial to Tamworth's sailor hero Colin Grazier has now topped £4,000.

Navy News featured Colin's story in its September edition after hearing of the drive to get proper recognition for the George Cross holder. AB Grazier lost his life in 1942 while recovering Enigma coding documents from a sinking U-boat.

What he and two other men from the destroyer HMS Petard did has been estimated to have shortened the war by up to a year.

Grazier was awarded the GC posthumously, but details of the mission were kept secret until long after the war.

A recent donation of £1,000 by Tamworth Borough Council has boosted the campaign being run by the Tamworth Herald and the Staffordshire town's Civic Society.

Herald Deputy Editor, Phil Shanahan, told *Navy News*: "We have been receiving letters of sup-



● Colin Grazier – he won the George Cross in 1942.

port on almost a daily basis, and many have enclosed cheques to the Colin Grazier Memorial Fund.

"An internationally known sculptor has agreed to come up with some ideas for the memorial, but it is far too early to mention anything more concrete than this."

Among those who contacted the Herald to back the campaign is

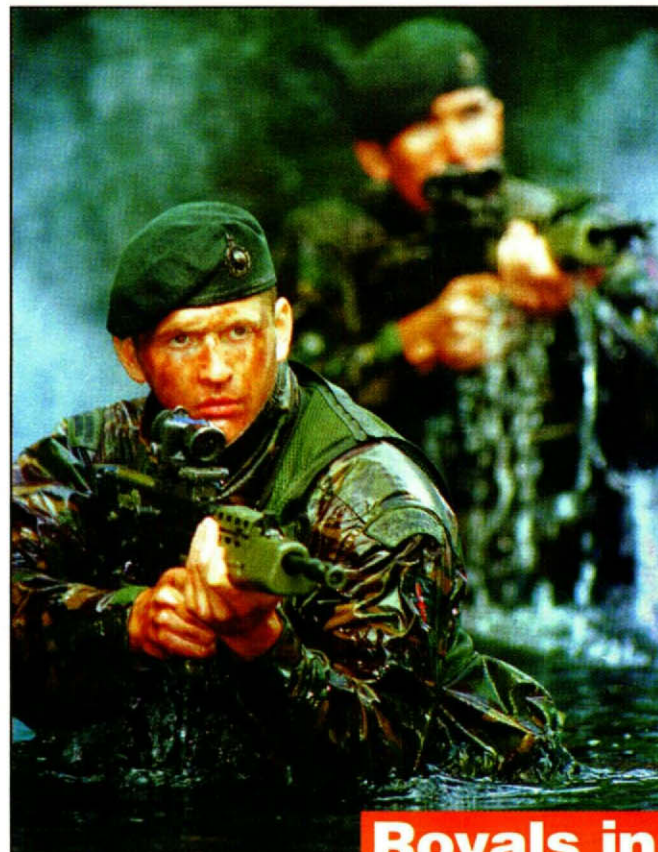
Capt C. B. Featherstone-Dilke RN (ret'd), who was sent by the Admiralty to meet the Grazier family in 1966 after they had asked for information about Colin's death.

Meanwhile, the Herald is now seeking more recognition for Grazier by the Imperial War Museum. "During a recent visit I struggled to find a mention of Grazier even in a special Enigma section," said Mr Shanahan.

Donations should be sent to The Colin Grazier Memorial Appeal, Ventura Park Road, Bitterscote, Tamworth, Staffs. B78 3LZ, making cheques payable to The Colin Grazier Memorial Fund.

President Clinton has written in praise of the Royal Navy's part in capturing Enigma coding materials. His letter came in the wake of protests over reports that a proposed American film intended to represent the USN as being responsible for capturing a crucial Enigma machine.

The machine was snatched from U-110 by HMS Bulldog in 1941, after the submarine had been



Royals in Virginia exercises

depth-charged to the surface by HMS Aubretia. The Aubretia's adopted town was Horsforth in Yorkshire, which raised £241,000 to fund the warship's cost.

Mr Clinton said in his letter to local MP Paul Truswell: "The Royal Navy's capture of U-110 and the recovery of its Enigma coding machine was of momentous importance to the course of the war and enabled Allied code breakers to decipher a vast number of coded messages..."

"The citizens of Horsforth can take heart in having raised the funds to purchase that Royal Navy corvette."

ROYAL Marines of 42 Commando advance on 'enemy' positions during an exercise on Dartmoor. The Commando is deploying to Virginia on October 3 where they will spend six weeks training in Exercise Stonewall, named after the American Civil War General Thomas (Stonewall) Jackson.

Picture: LA(PHOT) Steve Lewis

Mine ships return from big clean-up in the Adriatic

MINEHUNTERS HMS Atherstone and HMS Sandown have returned to UK after taking part in a prolonged operation which has made the Adriatic a safer place for seafarers.

The Hunt-class Atherstone rejoined the Second Mine Countermeasures Squadron at Portsmouth on September 11, while Sandown arrived the day before at MCM3 on the Clyde.

They had spent the summer in Operation Allied Harvest, disposing of 93 bombs and missiles that had been jettisoned in the Adriatic by Allied aircraft during NATO's Kosovo campaign.

Atherstone was a member of

Mine Countermeasure Force Mediterranean (MCMFORMED), while MCM Force North (MCMFORNORTH) – under Dutch command – included the Sandown, the only vessel in either group with variable-depth sonar.

MCMFORNORTH was formerly Standing Naval Force Channel, renamed at Den Helder in the Netherlands on May 7 and deployed soon after to the Adriatic.

Other members of MCM FORMED included command ship HMS Herald, which returned earlier.

Sandown's Commanding Officer, Lt Cdr Ben Key, said Allied Harvest was the first operation of its kind undertaken by NATO. "The clear desire of all those involved, from AB to Force Commander, to rise to the challenges faced, speaks volumes for the unique quality of the maritime spirit embodied within NATO," he said.

CO of Atherstone, Lt Cdr Mark Durkin said: "HMS Atherstone along with six other ships from five different countries joined the inaugural formation of MCMFORMED on May 27, and less than two weeks later we were all successfully working together on a live operation."

Sandown has been replaced in MCMFORNORTH by the Hunt-class ship HMS Cattistock.

Glasgow's memorial over Force Z ships



BEFORE she was ordered to join the peacekeeping task in East Timor, HMS Glasgow held this memorial service on her flight deck at the spot off Malaysia where Force Z ships HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Repulse were sunk in a Japanese air strike. More than 800 of the ships' compa-

nies died in the attack on December 10, 1941. The service was conducted by the Rev Nicholas Pneumatos, Chaplain of the Third Destroyer Squadron.

Earlier on the same day a service was held on board in memory of Lt Toby Beale, HMS Grafton's Lynx observer who died

when the helicopter crashed into the sea off Singapore a year before.

A third memorial service – this time ashore – was held the following day when Glasgow's Executive Officer, Lt Cdr Ralph Dodds, led an informal wreath-laying at Kranji war cemetery in Singapore.

US mini-sub at Faslane

THE US Navy's nuclear powered research submarine NR1 held its change of command ceremony at the Clyde Naval Base on September 3.

Among the senior British and American naval officers present was Flag Officer Scotland, Northern England and Northern Ireland, Rear Admiral Mike Gregory.

He witnessed Lt Cdr William Metz take command of the 150ft vessel from Lt Cdr Charles Richard. The 400-ton boat, launched in 1969, has a crew of 11 plus two scientific advisers.

'Ooh – suits you, sir!'



WELL, it might have done a couple of hundred years ago . . .

This magnificent replica uniform of the type worn by Nelson when a young captain at Nevis in the Leeward Islands – where he met and married his wife Frances in 1787 – has been presented to the island's Historical and Conservation Society by the 1805 Club.

It was handed over at a ceremony in HMS Victory by the Chief of Staff to the Second Sea Lord, Rear Admiral Peter Dunt – seen here with its creator, Keith Levett.

With great generosity, Savile Row tailors Henry Poole & Co agreed to recreate the 1774-1787 Pattern captain's full dress uniform, while James Lock & Co, Nelson's original hatters, produced the bicorne headgear.

It was in fact the third Nelson uniform Keith (26) has made, one being on permanent display in Japan, where the hero of Trafalgar is something of a cult figure.

He joined Henry Poole, the largest and longest-established firm of tailors on Savile Row, founded in 1806, under the Youth Training Scheme in 1989 – producing as his apprentice pieces both the Dress and Undress uniforms of Nelson.

But as no items of uniform exist from the time when Nelson served as a captain, he had to spend many hours in the National Maritime Museum studying the three Nelson coats there in order to produce the detail and measurements.

Over a month was spent developing the patterns and tailoring the coat, waistcoat and breeches.

"The coat itself was particularly time consuming, as it was entirely hand-sewn," Keith told *Navy News*.

The items will now adorn the Nevis museum's life-size display of Nelson, who is seen with his wife – herself dressed in a copy of an 18th century gown made with advice from experts at Colonial Williamsburg.

□ The 110ft Nelson memorial overlooking Portsmouth on Portsdown Hill – the oldest to commemorate him – is to receive a £30,000 facelift, it was announced last month.

'Proven' Somerset in new-style deployment

HMS SOMERSET sails from her base port of Devonport for a six-month deployment to the South Atlantic.

The "new-style" deployment is a direct result of the Strategic Defence Review and combines the tasks of providing year-round cover patrolling the Falkland Islands with the ability to react to any situation in the troubled region of West Africa.

During the deployment, the Type 23 frigate hopes to pay visits to ports in Africa, South America and the Falklands – practising "defence diplomacy", encouraging new defence relationships and promoting security and stability.

It will be her second deployment this year – she was earlier involved in the Kosovo crisis and since then has been completing intensive training for her current role.

Said her commanding officer Cdr The Hon Michael Cochrane: "This is a very exciting deployment for us. I have a very capable ship's company who have already proven themselves in the Adriatic."

"I am confident that we will succeed in any task we are given, and that we will do the job in the enthusiastic and thoroughly professional manner that is the trademark of HMS Somerset."

While she will be away for Christmas and the Millennium celebrations, technology has made it easier for the crew to contact their loved ones at home. The ship is fitted with the latest e-mail system using satellite telephones and has a limited facility to use military satellites to make personal phone calls.



Vulcan forges environmental pact

VULCAN Naval Reactor Test Establishment has become the first military-staffed MOD establishment to win a prestigious environmental award.

The site on the north coast of Scotland next to UKAEA Dounreay, is part of the Defence Procurement Agency and has been awarded approval to ISO 14001,

the international environmental management systems standard.

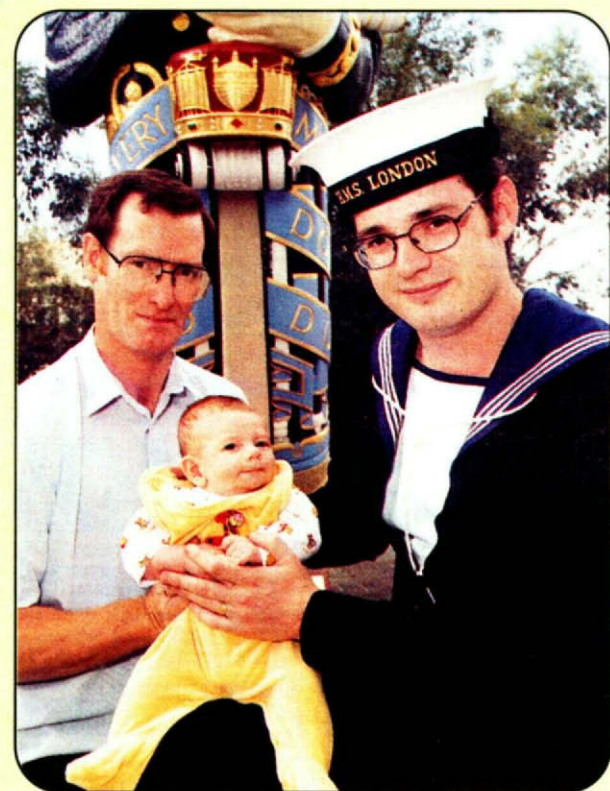
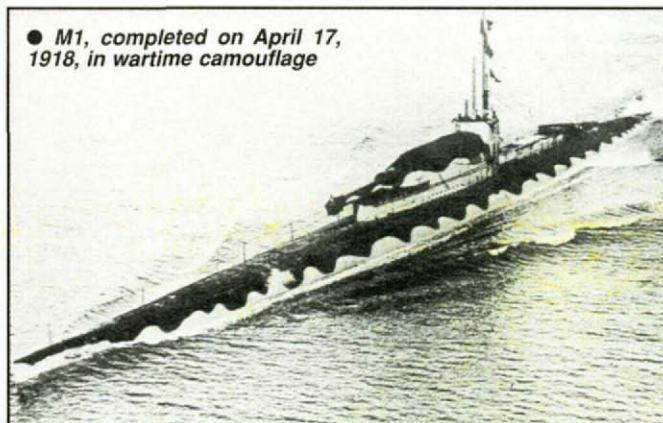
Vulcan NRTE was built in the early 1960s and was formerly known as Admiralty Reactor Test Establishment and later HMS Vulcan.

It is operated under contract from the MOD by Rolls-Royce and is used to test new designs of reactor plant for seagoing submarines to ensure safety, endurance and reliability.

Said Naval Superintendent Cdr Simon Middlemas: "The MOD and Rolls-Royce have worked closely on this site for many years. This award gives us the confidence that together we have not only looked after Vulcan, but also the environment."

"It is a great achievement and one that we are all proud of."

● M1, completed on April 17, 1918, in wartime camouflage



Nine days wonder!

JAMES Dylan Threadingham may be the Navy's youngest-ever recruit – his grandfather enrolled him in *Navy News* Gangplank Club when he was just nine days old!

Proud parents Jim and Natalie live in Gosport – as does grandad Andy Howell, himself ex-RN, and uncle WTR Peter Howell, currently serving in HMS London, both pictured here with baby James outside *Navy News* offices at HMS Nelson.

Big-gun sub wreck found

WRECK of the M1, the submarine with a monster 12-inch gun that was lost with all hands after being rammed accidentally while dived by the Swedish collier Vidar on November 12, 1925, has been found by sports divers 35 miles south east of Plymouth.

The discovery reinforces concerns over the disturbance of such wrecks, covered by the Protection of Military Remains Act passed after the Falklands War.

Questioning the value of such dives, Cdr Jeff Tall, director of the Submarine Museum, said there was no mystery about M1's loss.

"These finds only increase the risk of someone else going down to disturb our boys' last resting place – we don't want any part of it," he told *Navy News*.

□ The Friends of War Memorials founded by ex-Royal Marine Ian Davidson now has over 100 volunteers around the UK and has recently started a maritime division.

Gala concert at cathedral

GALA Concert by the Orchestra of HM Royal Marines and Portsmouth Cathedral Choir will be held at the Cathedral on October 8 at 7.30p.m. Tel 02392 435208 for tickets £3-10.

Quake claims popular officer

A ROYAL Navy liaison officer who died from injuries suffered in the Turkish earthquake had arrived in the country only a few hours before the disaster struck.

Lt Cdr Jim Acton (37) was Operations Officer of the Portsmouth-based First Mine Counter-measures Squadron.

He had arrived at the major naval base of Golcuk to liaise with the Turkish Navy and finalise plans for a joint exercise involving MCM1.

Lt Cdr Acton was seriously injured when the quake struck in the early hours of the morning of August 17. He was staying at the officers' mess at the base.

Medical team

He was evacuated in an RAF Hercules sent from Lyneham with a specialist medical team on board, but he died during the flight home on August 20.

A colleague said that Lt Cdr Acton was a popular and well respected member of the MCM1 staff, and that his death had greatly saddened the squadron.

He leaves a wife and two children – a boy aged six and a baby girl.

More than 40,000 people died in the earthquake, including many Turkish naval personnel of both junior and senior rank.



● ARGONAUT: The destroyer HMS Edinburgh in the Mediterranean with HMS Fearless, HMS Ocean and their support ships for Exercise Argonaut 1999.

Task group hits Aegean beaches

THE LARGEST amphibious force to leave Britain for many years has been put to the test in a series of mock battles with Turkish and American Marines on the shores of the Aegean.

HMS Fearless and HMS Ocean is leading a force which put hundreds of men from 40 Commando ashore in Turkey during five days of intensive warfighting drills as part of Exercise Argonaut.

After a spectacular departure from Plymouth Sound, HMS Ocean, Fearless, Edinburgh and their RFA support ships sailed to the Mediterranean, exercising with French, Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch, Greek and Turkish navies on the way.

Port visits were made at Gibraltar and Naples before they headed for the Aegean for exercise Northern Approaches.

In Turkey's Doganbey Bay, south of Izmir, they joined forces

with the Turkish ships Orucreis, Ege and Serdar and the USS Ponce of the American Marine Expeditionary Force.

And after three days of training with Turkish troops they turned North for Saros Bay, making an opposed passage, harried by Turkish fast patrol boats, submarines and aircraft all the way.

At Saros, Royal Marine Commandos fought alongside Turks and Americans during the beach assault and faced heavy opposition from Turkish infantry and armour during five days of non-stop action.

Speaking to Navy News by satellite telephone, Amphibious Task



● HMS Ocean anchored in Saros Bay during exercise Northern Approaches. Picture: LA/PHOT Andy Pratt

Group Commander, Commodore Niall Kilgour, said: "The Turkish authorities have been bending over backwards to be flexible."

"They have provided the most outstanding opposition for us to match our capabilities against and its value has been of the highest order."

"We had to plan and react in exactly the same way as we would with real operations."

The beach assault during exercise Northern Approaches was a

forerunner to the much larger Exercise Bright Star which will see the task group joining a multinational flotilla making amphibious landings at El Alamein near Alexandria in Egypt.

Commodore Kilgour's group will be joined by HMS Cumberland, the survey ship HMS Herald, and minesweepers HMS Quorn, Walney, Chiddingfold and Penzance, and he will be in command of 26 ships at the height of the exercise.

After the landings in Egypt, the group will split up with ships heading for Cyprus, Greece, Lebanon and Syria and HMS Ocean, Fearless, the minesweepers and the RFAs will go to the Black Sea for exercises with Bulgaria and Romania and an amphibious warfare demonstration in the Ukraine.

The Task Group will eventually re-group off the coast of Portugal in December and will return to Plymouth in time for Christmas.

Plymouth Navy Days
(August 28th - 30th 1999)
Official Souvenir Programme/Guide
A must for all collectors!
Available by mail order only £1.50 per copy inc. P&P
Send cheque/PO to: Navy News,
HMS Nelson, Portsmouth PO1 3HH
On sale from:
Plymouth Dockyard Museum Shop at £1.25
For opening hours ring 01752 554582

HAVE YOU MISSED US?
Back copies available from 1980.
Ring Anne Young
PORTSMOUTH (01705) 826040
Navy News - The Paper that lives up to its name!

CREDIT CARD NEWS

VISA Access DELTA MasterCard SWITCH

The above Credit Cards will not be accepted on orders of less than £5.
Please debit my my Card
My order is attached for
Cardholders Name:
Cardholders Address:
Tel:
Number Switch Issue No.
Expiry Date Cardholders Signature Amount



● DAWN: An RN Gazelle helicopter covers 40 Cdo's advance.



● YOMP: Royal Marines stream inland from the beach head.

Sailors respond to appeal for blood

TURKISH medics were inundated with volunteers when they asked visiting Naval personnel to give blood to help survivors of the country's devastating earthquake.

Almost 100 sailors and Royal Marines from HMS Ocean, HMS Fearless, HMS Edinburgh and RFAs Sir Bedivere, Sir Galahad, Sir Percivale and Fort George were ferried to HMS Fearless where a team from the Red Crescent was working in the sick bay.

Senior Military planners in the UK had told the Turkish authorities that the task group would offer any assistance which they required, but as their own armed forces took charge of disaster relief the need for blood was the most pressing requirement.

Commodore Kilgour said: "It was a super response from everyone involved and we were really pleased to assist our Turkish friends in the wake of this awful disaster."



● BLOOD DONORS: Some of the many personnel who gave blood to help survivors of the Turkish earthquake.



Cruiser destroyed by guided weapon

THE FIVE ships which have previously borne the name Spartan have seen service – and action – in many parts of the world.

The first Spartan was a fifth rate carrying 38 guns, built at Rochester in 1806.

This ship prevailed in an heroic scrap with four French vessels and seven Neapolitan gunboats in the Bay of Naples in May, 1810, and she continued to serve until the spring of 1822, when she was broken up.

The next Spartan was still-born – she was to be another fifth rate, this time with 46 guns, and was ordered in September 1824, to be built at Portsmouth Dockyard.

But she was cancelled in February 1831, and it was ten years until the second Spartan was built, a 26-gun sixth rate constructed in Devonport in 1841.

This vessel spent time in North America and the Caribbean before switching to the Far East, where she fought Chinese pirates and won Battle Honours at Burma and China, before being sold in 1862.

A wooden screw sloop was the third to carry the name, built at Deptford in 1868.

The sloop saw service in the East Indies before spending some time in operations against African slave traders, and was sold in 1882.

The fourth HMS Spartan brought the name into the modern era.

A second-class cruiser of 3,600 tons, she was built in 1891 and assumed harbour service duties in 1921 after spells in the Mediterranean and on the China Station.

She became the tender to the Defiance Torpedo School in Devonport, being renamed Defiance in 1921.

The immediate ancestor to the nuclear submarine was the Dido-class cruiser of 5,770 tons, built by Vickers Armstrong at Barrow in 1942.

She was completed for service in August 1943 and was commissioned with a Devonport crew for service with the Eastern Fleet, but she joined the Home Fleet, and was then deployed to the Mediterranean.

The cruiser won Battle Honours for both the Mediterranean and Anzio campaigns, and it was while engaged in the latter that she met her end.

She was carrying out anti-aircraft protection duties when she was struck by a radio-controlled glider bomb. She sank with the loss of five officers and 41 ratings.

One other Spartan appears in the Admiralty records – a drifter which was requisitioned in the years 1914-1919.



● Potent threat – HMS Spartan.



Facts and figures

Class: Swiftsure-class attack submarine

Pennant number: S105

Builder: VSEL, Barrow-in-Furness

Launched: April 7, 1978

Commissioned: September 22, 1979

Displacement: 4,900 tonnes dived

Length: 82.9 metres

Beam: 9.8 metres

Draught: 8.5 metres

Speed: In excess of 30 knots (dived)

Complement: 116 (13 officers) sharing 98 berths

Machinery: One Rolls-Royce pressurised water nuclear reactor; one shaft; pump jet propulsor; two WH Allen turbo generators; one Paxman diesel alternator; one emergency drive motor; one auxiliary retractable propeller

Armament: Sub-Harpoon anti-ship missiles; Tigerfish torpedoes; TLAM missiles (after overhaul); can carry mines in lieu of torpedoes

Radar: Navigation: Kelvin Hughes Type 1006; I-band

Sonars: Includes Marconi/Plessey Type 2074 (active/passive search and attack); BAC Type 2007; Ferranti Type 2046 (towed array, passive search); Marconi Type 2077 (short-range classification, active)

Affiliation: TS Severn Sea Cadet Unit, Stroud

Spartan is getting stronger

THE SWIFTSURE class of nuclear submarines may bear little physical resemblance to HM ships Rodney, Nelson and Warspite, but they inherited the role of the battleship – and added other capabilities to boot.

For the Fleet submarines, of which HMS Spartan is one, are the capital ships of modern warfare, a potent strike-force designed to hunt out and destroy enemy submarines and surface ships.

And with the advent of the TLAM – Tomahawk Land Attack Missile, usually known as a cruise missile – RN attack submarines can now hit targets far inland.

But the endurance and quietness of boats like Spartan – she can stay submerged almost indefinitely, the only limiting factor being food supplies – means they are also capable of other operations, such as ocean-wide covert surveillance.

Spartan herself is the fifth of the Swiftsures, which are all attached to the First Submarine Squadron based at Faslane in Scotland.

She is currently undergoing her long overhaul period at Rosyth Royal Dockyard, where her nuclear reactor is being refuelled and TLAM fitted.

As part of the overhaul, Spartan

has had three holes cut into her pressure hull to enable the transfer of large equipment such as the main battery, parts of the main engines, and to refuel the reactor.

The ship's company is based in adjacent offices and accommodation (a far cry from patrols, when 120 men must 'hot bunk' or share the 98 beds between them), and are on hand to witness tests, vet documents and operate systems.

During the overhaul the ship's company plans to host members of Spartan's affiliated Sea Cadet Unit, TS Severn, from Stroud.

Before her enforced lay-off, Spartan had ventured far and wide; in 1998 alone she visited Gibraltar, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Diego Garcia, Crete and La Spezia.

She entered dock in March this year, and is expected to emerge with her extended armoury of weapons in late 2001.

BATTLE HONOURS

Burma	1852-53
China	1856-57
Atlantic	1943
Mediterranean ...	1944
Anzio	1944

WE WON'T LEAVE YOU ADrift



The RNBT helps past and present Sailors, Royal Marines and their dependants

From the day they join the Royal Navy or Royal Marines, all ratings and other ranks are part of the 'RNBT Family'; so are their wives, husbands and dependants. For the rest of their lives they may seek help from the RNBT in times of need.

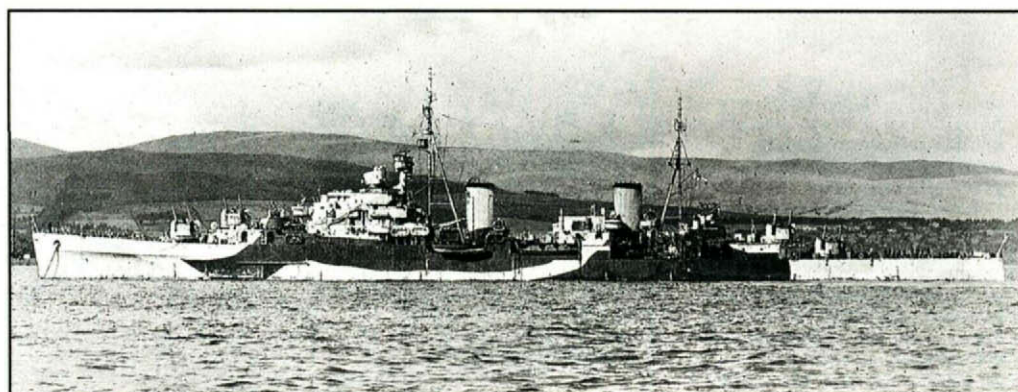
The RNBT gives over £2 million in financial grants every year and cares for older people in its own residential/nursing home.

For more information or advice please call: **01705 660296**



THE ROYAL NAVAL BENEVOLENT TRUST
SUPPORTING THE 'RNBT FAMILY'

The Royal Naval Benevolent Trust,
Castaway House, 311 Twyford Avenue, Portsmouth PO2 8PE



● Casualty of war – the Dido-class cruiser HMS Spartan, sunk by a glider bomb in 1944.



JACK

BY TUGS

FACE FACTS!! -
YOU'RE OVER THE
HILL!! - A RELIC!!

YOU CAN'T STOP
PROGRESS!!
THERE'S NO
GOING BACK
FEATHERBRAIN!!
WISE UP!!



Jamaica at Kiel

IT WAS interesting to read the letter from Schleswig Holstein (August issue). However, Herr Krueger may be slightly in error. 1974 was not the first year that British sailors were in the Baltic for Kiel's annual sailing week.

My ship HMS Jamaica was at Kiel for the 1954 regatta, and some of her whalers and cutters took part.

I clearly recall that the good people of Kiel made the crew of HMS Jamaica, both ashore and sailing, very welcome. I was a very young ordinary telegraphist, not yet allowed all night leave, and was nearly in the rattle for being late back one evening (0300) but was excused as we were at a party given by the Germans ashore.

If my memory serves me, the Jamaica was the first ship to attend a Kiel Regatta since before the war. A bit late I know, but thank you Herr Krueger for the super week your town gave all of us 45 years ago. - P. J. Smith, Croydon

TV licence troubles

WHY can't the Navy negotiate a transferable TV licence with the BBC?

At a recent meeting on our diving team our OIC informed us that we were to purchase a TV licence of our own as the one for the block TV room does not cover our personal sets and that the licence was to show our cabin number as the address.

Since joining the diving team I have been sent on numerous courses lasting 2-3 weeks. Are we expected to purchase a new licence every time we go on a course if we want to take a portable TV with us? Surely the MOD could negotiate a licence that would cover the person and not the address for use by members of the Armed Forces? - AB(D) D. R. Barnitt, SDU1, Plymouth.

Letters to the Editor should always be accompanied by the correspondent's name and address, not necessarily for publication.

Reservists work the longest!

WITH regard to the recent correspondence regarding the Pay 2000 scheme, it is disappointing to note that it already appears to be corroding the "All of one company" ethos, with the barbed comments between branches going beyond the usual and accepted inter-branch banter.

Irrespective of an individual's role on board, when faced by the common foes of the sea and the Queen's enemies, what payband you are on is inconsequential.

With regard to comments by LWTR Elton, LRO(G) Spurling and MAA Beetlestone on who works the longest, the answer is a Reservist.

He or she already works a full day and then some! Whether it be evenings or weekends, often travelling the length and breadth

of the country during the latter to undergo training.

Try spotting a matelot of any branch in HM Naval Bases at the weekend. He/she is either Duty Watch or a Reservist, identified by the cap tally most regulars have never heard of.

As Winston Churchill said "Twice a citizen".

As a full-time Reservist with ten years "real world" experience prior to the last four in a blue suit, I can say that the Royal Navy is a superb employer. True, it is not perfect,

but I know far worse and I know which I prefer.

So let's stop getting things personal. If the RN is not to be a "house of cards", everyone's contribution is important and vital to the success of the Service as a whole.

No one individual is more important than another. Our corporate history has proven this time and time again. - Lt S. J. Lewis, RNR, HMS Victory. PS In the RNR we have neither Writers nor Regulators and we do just fine!

Rolling your own, the Navy way

I FIND it very sad that these politically correct people are allowed to ban sponsorship of the tobacco firms in our Navy.

Although personally a non-smoker, I would fight to maintain the rights of smokers to "Carry on Smoking" as I feel that as adults we

should be allowed to make our own choice.

When I was a young sailor pre-war I was entranced to watch the old three-badgemen making up their "pricks" of pipe tobacco. They would buy half-a-pound of leaf tobacco in the canteen flat and lay it out on the mess table to remove the stalks.

The leaves were then laid flat and layered with an addition of illegal rum, wrapped in a piece of deck cloth and then parcelled up in spunyarn which was impregnated with tar, and the result was a sort of tobacco sausage, tapered at each end.

When the spunyarn and cloth were removed, a solid stick of pressed tobacco was revealed, rendered smokeable by cutting off a slice and rubbing it in their horny hands.

I never minded the smoke and eventually took up smoking, especially after my ship was sunk at Dunkirk with the loss of most of the crew.

I volunteered for submarines after this, but found that smoking

on patrol was forbidden when dived as it used up the oxygen. But after a successful attack the skipper would allow us "one all round" after the hunting vessels had given us a break from the depth charging.

We couldn't smoke whilst we were dived, as by the time we surfaced we were supercharged with CO₂, lying on the lockers gasping for breath with our lips blue and the slightest exertion making us gasp.

When we surfaced and the skipper gave the order "Carry on Smoking" we all lit up - and almost immediately were vomiting in the nearest gash bucket to get the foul gases out of our lungs.

I was always an unpopular chap in submarines, being a POLTO in charge of all the electrics and the main batteries. In the final stages of the nightly battery charge I had to ensure that the "No Smoking" boards were placed forward of the control room, in case of a build-up of battery gas and an explosion which would blow the boat apart.

However, I survived all this and

Civilianisation 'gone too far' for people with ambition

I KNOW what a difficult task Drafty has - and always has had - but the effects of civilianisation and contractorisation have made it almost impossible to run the Navy in a fair and just way.

-Perhaps the effects on the men of this cost/benefit policy were not foreseen by our decision-making Naval officers and staff, but can anyone justify a policy which enforces a man to spend 83 per cent of his early years in a seagoing job?

When he does get ashore, he doesn't go to a steady job, and can't be sure that it will be in the trade for which he is trained. Worse, perhaps, is the petty officer's position, probably married, with children. What support can he give his wife?

How does he become a real Dad to children who probably need more parental guidance now than they did 20 years ago? Is he properly employed when he is ashore? Is the billet in his own trade? Where is the time for training and advancement? Does the shore time allow him to be with his family?

The chiefs are mature men, and are probably some of the most balanced and level-headed blokes you would ever find, but don't expect them to tolerate a mere 38 per cent of their life with the wife and kids. They'll soon see that they could earn more ashore as one of the contractors and have a more stable family life!

Drafty is fully aware of the problem for the men and the "employer" (what a dreadful word to use in the Service context), but what is going to be done about it? - Capt F. Hefford, Haslemere, Surrey.

IF FEL that the Service must review the way ahead for the Supply Branch, particularly that of the Stewards. Having just passed for LSTD, I can anticipate waiting at least five years for promotion and then at least another eight years to achieve senior rating status.

Pay increments and advancement by selection are all very well, but if the billets are not there, good people with ambition will still be frustrated.

Civilianisation has gone too far. The long term interests of both the Service and its people have been sacrificed for short term budgetary gain.

The Service must appreciate the legitimate ambitions of its people if it wishes to retain them. Cannot higher management take the long view and seek to retain the motivation of experienced people over the span of a career rather than treating us as worker bees? Invest in People, perhaps? - Std Hopwood, HMS Ocean.

WITH reference to Lt Carr's letter about "stay on" bonuses for pilots (August issue), I much regret that my wife tells me that I am too old to be an "oil boy" for Hawaiian Tropic, but if I was young enough, then I suggest the training involved would not be that expensive.

The one and only reason the Government introduced funding for an Air Transport Pilots' Licence was in recognition of the high cost of training pilots and the Navy's need to retain them for longer in the face of fierce competition from the airlines - it costs approximately £4m to train a Sea Harrier pilot and £1.4 million for a Lynx pilot.

Pilots will be eligible to register for the ATPL scheme from age 32, incurring a three year return of service. At 35 most pilots are only two years from pension eligibility which should act as a powerful pull through, as the White Ensign Association calculates that it would cost the best part of £400,000 to purchase a lieutenant commander's pension from an annuity office at age 35.

If we can retain more pilots to age 37 then the current high level of gapping would be largely eradicated. Finally, the ATPL scheme applies to the RAF and Army who are experiencing similar pilot retention problems, and there is absolutely no possibility of the RAF filling our gaps. - Capt N. P. Wright, FONA HQ, Canvey Island, Essex.

● The correspondent enclosed a pen and ink drawing of sailors rolling their tobacco, taken from a programme of the Channel Fleet's visit to Southend in 1910.



Navy News

No.543 46th year

Editorial and Business address: Leviathan Block, HMS Nelson, Portsmouth, Hants, PO1 3HH

Editor: Jim Allaway

Deputy Editor: Anton Hanney

Assistant Editors: Dominic Blake and Mike Gray

Business Manager: Anne Driver

TELEPHONES

Editorial: 01705-294228/724163 Fax: 01705 838845

(Mil. PNB 24163)

Advertising: 01705 725062 & 724226

Distribution: 01705 725136 Accounts: 01705 826040

24 hour service to all departments 01705 826040

Fax: 01705-830149

FIELD GUN RUN IN THE OCEAN



● GUNSLINGERS: HMS Albion's 1970 Field Gun staff, somewhere in the Indian Ocean.

ALAS, the Field Gun competition at Earls Court is no more – another great tradition discarded.

While I was serving in HMS Albion in 1970 as CPTI, I was challenged by the Chief Chippy to run a field gun competition of our own on board. I told him "no problem" and started to plan.

The guns I wanted to use were two of the four saluting guns on the quarterdeck. On asking the gunnery officer if I could use them, his initial reply was unprintable, but with persistence and a nod from our Captain (Capt J. G. Jungius) he relented.

We decided that the carriage would be a flight deck trolley, so two of these were strengthened and the guns mounted by four huge bolts. The trolley, as any flight deck staff will tell you, was steered by a T-handle and could quite easily be turned over at speed.

Each crew consisted of 12 members, one on each side of the T-handle, five on each drag line.

The course was our next task. We decided that no field gun competition would be complete without a "hole in the wall" and, of course, the famous chasm. This we had tailor-made – the forward lift. We would lower it half way and rig safety nets under the sheer leg wire run. The two walls were expertly made so that the gun, when dismantled, would just go through followed by the carriage.

The run started from the stern of the flight deck with a 25 yard dash to a wire loading net

hung 12ft high from two fork-lift trucks. Everything had to go over, then the crews had another controlled dash of 25 yards to the walls. The gun had to be unbolted from its carriage then bolted back securely when through. Ahead of them was another 25yard dash and sheer legs, which had to be rigged, and gun and crew had to go over the chasm.

Then a 20yard dash to a wire cage where all the gun and crew had to be in before three blanks were fired from a .303 rifle, signifying the end of the run.

Five minutes to rest to treat cuts and bruises, then the Royal Marine bugler sounded the charge, and on the last note the home run started.

The two courses had over 25 runs over them, what with practice runs, heats and the final, yet not one major repair was required.

The final was run on a beautiful Sunday evening in the Indian Ocean. Both teams were lined up on the lowered after lift with the Royal Marines Band in front of them.

As the lift was raised the band struck up with "Rule Britannia" and as they came into view the cheering from the 1,000-plus cramming the sponsons and safe areas on the flight deck sounded like Cup Final day at Wembley.

At the end of the out run, Seaman B were three seconds ahead of Seaman A. The run home was superb with the A team coming through to win by 41/2 seconds.

It really was a great competition which had the ship's company and Marine Detachment talking for days. – B. Garnham, Bury St Edmunds



Letters



Tea and sympathy

I AM writing to tell you of an incident that took place in HMS Monmouth at Plymouth Navy Days.

Harriet and Ken Westcott, Mrs Gwen Gunning and myself motored down from Bath. As always, it was a day to remember – but on this occasion particularly so.

Gwen is a lady in her mid-eighties, has a pacemaker and has very little sight. We enjoyed our visits to various ships and on the bridge deck of HMS Monmouth we were able to witness the display by the Red Devils.

During this, Gwen said she felt unwell, caught hold of a restraining rail and then slowly began to slump down. We helped her down to her knees and finally to the deck itself where she appeared to be unconscious.

A member of the ship's company called the Officer of the Day, Lt Murphy, who appeared within seconds, organised a party to fetch the Duty Chef, who was qualified in First Aid, and also for medical help from the St John's Ambulance.

Gwen began to recover consciousness and with the help of other members of the ship's company she was gently and very carefully helped to the wardroom, settled in a comfortable chair and made a cup of tea.

Later she was provided with a wheelchair for the remainder of her tour.

I would like to say how impressed we were by the efforts that were made by all personnel on the base – their behaviour was magnificent! I spent five years with the RN during the last war, mainly on North Atlantic convoy escort duty, so I have always been aware of the Navy's reliable reaction in times of crisis – God bless 'em. – A. Cobb, Bath

That's my Scout

ONE of our members sent me a copy of February's Navy News which shows my Bristol Scout reproduction (not replica!) now at Yeovilton.

A couple of minor corrections: it is not a partly-built airframe, but completely built and it flew. I only wish they had kept the covering on it or re-covered it. I had it covered and marked to represent the last Scout built, which in fact was Navy N5419.

I was able to get this number, which was at once the last British Scout and the current FAA registration number for my aeroplane. So one number did double duty.

Perhaps the reason that they undid it was that I used RFC paint, the greenish-olive colour, rather than the baby-vomit yellow which seems to have been standard Navy.

It flew very well indeed – I look forward to seeing it someday at Yeovilton. – L. E. Opdycke, World War 1 Aeroplanes Inc, Poughkeepsie, New York.

Totem extras

WITH reference to F. M. Liebrich's letter 'Totem Mystery' (September issue), an account of the submarine's career, including details of her 1952-53 refit at Chatham Dockyard is given in October's *Ships Monthly*.

In common with seven sister boats, she received an additional section 'midships' to accommodate a further pair of electric motors.

During 1967 Vickers Armstrong were contracted by the Israeli Navy to refit her prior to the ill-fated passage to Haifa and the only major external alteration was to the bridge fin and the incorporation of a five-man escape/diving chamber within it.

Collision with a large surface ship especially whilst snorting at night (as she was ordered to do) to my mind remains the most likely cause. – R. Fry, Weymouth.

Injured by paint job

WHILE the Imperial War Museum must be praised for all that it has done to preserve HMS Belfast, it does seem a great pity that following this latest refit, she should again be painted in camouflage colours.

As you rightly point out, her present appearance dates from her last refit whilst serving as an active unit of the Royal Navy, which took place in 1956-59 and that was long after both disruptive and standard camouflage schemes had been discontinued.

It seems surprising that the IWM, which has a reputation for historical accuracy, should create such an anachronism which gives a wartime camouflage scheme and then adds insult to injury by painting the lattice masts to present day, peacetime standards. – J. R. Dominy, Derby.

IN THE May issue of *Navy News*

you say HMS Belfast was the first confirmed warship victim of a magnetic mine.

I was serving in HMS Nelson from September 29 onwards and my first trip was from Scapa Flow to Loch Ewe where we hit a magnetic mine. My memory may not have served me too well, but I would be interested to know the facts. On leaving the Nelson I joined the Belfast and was in her for four years. – W. Smithson, Scunthorpe.

HMS Belfast was mined on November 21, 1939 – HMS Nelson on December 4. There were 73 casualties in the latter. No-one was killed – but in the heads forward many lavatory pans shattered and their occupants suffered severe lacerations. – Ed.

Brothers four

I WAS the last of four brothers to join the Navy in World War II and I wonder if anyone can beat that.

My eldest brother Jim joined in 1940 and did his training at Butlins, Skegness. His first ship was HMS Ceres round the coast of Africa.

My next brother Bill joined in 1941 and was in HMS Cairo when she was sunk on the Pedestal convoy to Malta. He then went on the Russian convoys where he was joined by Jim. They served together in HMS Scourge at D-Day.

Ron joined in 1942 and went in LCT 17 round Italy.

I joined in 1943, joined Coastal Forces and spent the last year of the war in ML 837 in the Aegean.

Jim was the first to be demobbed on VE Day. I was the last in January 1947.

Jim died two years ago, but the rest of us are still alive. I am now a member of the Coastal Forces Veterans Association, Ron is involved with the Landing Craft Association and Bill is the organiser of HMS Scourge Association. We are still much involved with the Navy. – Harry Swift, Hull.

March request

IN 1940 when Wrens had to go to sea because of the shortage of men, the composer Richard Addinsell (best known for his 'Warsaw Concerto') wrote what was called 'The Wrens March' in their honour.

I'd expected it to be played on appropriate occasions, especially around the time those 22 Wrens were lost en route to Gibraltar.

But on not one Naval occasion have I heard it played. It would make a welcome change from Alfond and Souza. – R. O'Donnell, Sheffield.

Delicate question

I AM an undergraduate student at Sheffield Hallam University. During the course of the coming academic year I will be engaged in writing a dissertation on medicine in the Royal Navy during World War II.

The title is "Venereal Disease and the Royal Navy 1939-45: An investigation into the incidence of venereal diseases in the Navy during the Second World War and their implications with regards to Naval discipline and morale".

I am interested in corresponding with any of your readers who might be able to offer any insight into the key issues, namely the medical aspects of treatment in a wartime environment and Naval discipline and morale during a prolonged conflict. The foci of my investigation will be the Navy at home, in the Mediterranean and the Far East. – D. A. Beamish, Workshop.

Musketeer mistake

NO DOUBT many will have pointed out that, though HMS Bulwark and HMS Albion did take part in Operation Musketeer in 1956, they, along with HMS Eagle, were used as fixed wing aircraft carriers.

The carriers used as helicopter troop carriers were HMS Ocean and her sister ship HMS Theseus, both rapidly converted from their role as training ships. – C. G. Atkinson, Barnsley.

SAVE MONEY ON YOUR PHONE BILL

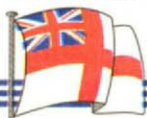
CALL NOW TO FIND OUT HOW MUCH YOU CAN SAVE!
+44 (0) 181 261 61 61
Or Call Free in the UK on 0800 097 5140

Low Cost International Phone Calls From And To The UK!

UK/USA	7P	U.A.E./UK	28P
GIBRALTER/UK	18P	UK/BARBADOS	36P
UK/AUSTRALIA	10P	CYPRUS/UK	21P

Rates are in UK pence per minute ALL DAY/EVERY DAY

34 Chartergate, Moulton Park,
 Northampton NN3 6QB United Kingdom
 Fax: +44 (0) 181 261 61 26
www.dial-tele.com



People in the News



In brief

THE WINNER of the Admiral Sir Richard Clayton Memorial Sword for the best overall result on the X(SD) course at HMS Dryad is HMS Richmond's S/Lt Colin Castle.

S/Lt Castle, who was selected for promotion while serving as a CPO on board HMS Cornwall, was presented with the sword by the Managing Director of Marconi Anti-Submarine Warfare Systems.

HMS Richmond is currently in the Falklands and when she returns to Portsmouth next month, S/Lt Castle hopes to return to Dryad for his Principal Warfare Officer's Course.

THE CASTAWAYS prize for the best Leading Rate on the LAEM(L) Qualifying Course at HMS Sultan has been won by LAEM(L) Pete Higgins.

The award is all the more significant for the fact that LAEM(L) Higgins is the first 'All Trade' AEM to receive the 'L' qualification. His prize was presented by Cdr Kevin Fox, head of the Air Engineering Training Department.

HMS DRYAD'S WO Paul Warrilow has gained an incredible tally of five level 4 NVQ qualifications and a certificate in education in just 15 months.

The professional management courses are rated at somewhere between A level and degree level and WO Warrilow believes that it was his existing experience that made the results possible.

He said: "I started doing it because I had an administration and management role already."

"The certificate in education involved me going in to college for four hours a week but the rest I fitted in to my own time."

TOP STUDENT on the Leading Writer ROC course at HMS Raleigh was FOST(MPV)'s LWTR Mark Henderson.

His achievement earned him the Peter Grocott Trophy and the award was presented by Deputy Flag Officer Sea Training Capt Mark Kerr.

Capt Kerr also made time to visit HMS Inverness and HMS Cottesmore, who were taking part in Operational Sea Training in the Scottish Exercise Areas with HMS Quorn and HMS Penzance.

THE ARCHBISHOP of Canterbury has appointed Revd Doctor Simon Stephens OBE RN as the Anglican Chaplain to HM Ambassador in Moscow.

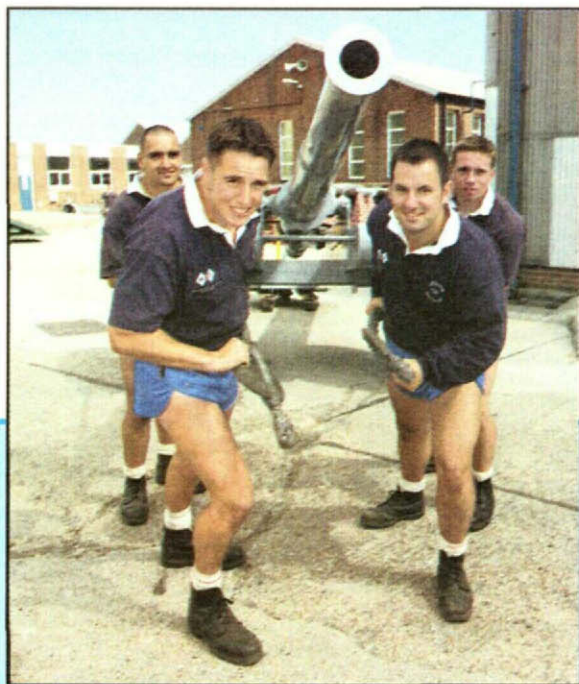
Revd Dr Stephens, who is currently Anglican Chaplain of Menorca, will take special responsibility for St Andrew's Chaplaincy, Moscow, and English-speaking community throughout the Russian Federation.

In addition, he will be the Anglican Church's Ambassador to His Holiness The Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia. He is due to take up the appointment at the end of November.

HMS COVENTRY'S OM(C) Ben Logan became the first member of the Royal Navy to be baptised in the Danish Naval Church of Holmans Kerk during the ship's recent visit to Copenhagen.

The baptism was carried out by Royal Naval Chaplain Martyn J Gough and his Danish counterpart, the Revd Peter Jacobson, at Holmans Kerk, the Church which is used by the Danish Royal Family.

The ceremony took part during HMS Coventry's STANAV-FORLANT deployment and was also celebrated by Chaplains and sailors from Norway, Canada, Germany and America.



● GUNNERS: Kevin Dufton, Taff Arnold, Richard Dorgan and Matt Scott tow away the replica 4.7-inch gun.

Picture: LA(PHOT) Dave Hunt



FIELD GUN BOUND FOR SOUTH AFRICA

A FIELD gun from Portsmouth is on its way to South Africa to help mark the 100th anniversary of the Boer War.

The replica 4.7-inch field gun, built at HMS Excellent for the 1980 Royal Tournament, has been donated to the Mayor of Durban for permanent display.

It is due to be unveiled on October 16 by Sir Anthony Scott, grandson of Admiral Sir Percy Scott who was Captain of HMS Terrible during the War.

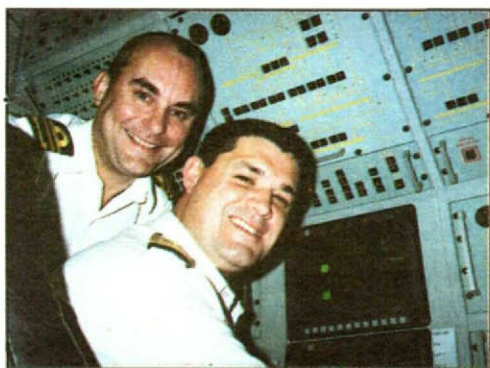
Getting a head start

ENGINEERING students hoping to join the Navy got a head start to their careers with work experience at Portsmouth Naval Base.

The group of midshipmen from Southampton University are being sponsored by the Navy and hope to enter BRNC Dartmouth at the end of their degrees.

During their time at Portsmouth the group gained invaluable experience in many parts of the Naval Base and are pictured (above) on board HMS Grafton.

Charlie goes down under down under!



● Lt Cdr Charlie Neve with Cdr Mel Jones, CO of HMAS Waller and former CO of HMS Unseen.

IF THERE was a record for just how far 'down under' a 'Pommie' can go, Lt Cdr Charlie Neve would probably be the holder.

He is currently on exchange with the Royal Australian Navy as Deputy Fleet Submarine Operations Officer, and he has already been under the waves with two of their new Collins-class vessels.

Despite Australian press criticism over problems with diesel generators and other systems, Lt Cdr Neve has been impressed with what he has seen of the Collins-class so far. He said: "There are so many good things about these submarines that never get reported."

"The submarine is extremely manoeuvrable and has an impressive burst of speed even after long periods at patrol speed."

"Problems with noise from the hull shape are being rectified and I'm glad that an ally such as Australia has these submarines and not a potential aggressor."

The Australian exchange has also given Lt Cdr Neve the chance to catch up with Cdr Mel Jones, his former CO in HMS Unseen, who has transferred to the RAN and is now in command of HMAS Waller.

Collins-class boats now regularly deploy away from Australia and it is hoped that in the near future one will make history by surfacing in the UK, in time, perhaps, for the submarine centenary celebrations in June 2001 and that year's North Atlantic JMC.



● COLLINS-CLASS: One of Australia's new submarines and (left) the sinking of HMAS Torrens by a Mk 8 torpedo from the submarine HMAS Farncomb.



● SAILING: Sea Cadet Sarah Brown of the Bark Endeavour.

Cadet joins Cook's ship

WHEN SEA Cadet Sarah Robinson was sponsored for a voyage on a replica of Captain Cook's ship Endeavour she thought her luck was really in.

But the captain of the vessel was so impressed with the cadet from Fishguard Unit that she has been offered a four-year contract to stay with the bark, taking her to Australia for the 2000 Olympics and beyond.

Sarah said: "I am so grateful for the help and support of the Sea Cadet Corps and the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights as well as to Captain Blake who has been an inspiration. I'll report from the Pacific soon!"

Birmingham sailors are on final mission



● RETIRING: HMS Birmingham, one of the Navy's oldest ships, heading home after her final deployment. Picture: Paul O'Shaughnessy

SAILORS in HMS Birmingham are heading home this month as the ship comes to the end of her last ever deployment.

Birmingham is handing over her Armilla duties to HMS Exeter on October 12 and is planning a series of port visits on her way back to the UK.

In between boarding operations, gunnery exercises and resupplies at sea, the ship made time to call at Kuwait City, Dubai, Muscat and Bahrain.

And on the way home she is due to call at Eilat and several ports in the Med before reaching Portsmouth on November 12. Decommissioning ceremonies will be held in the city of Birmingham, running from December 2 to 6.

Picture: Paul O'Shaughnessy



● G'DAY: Ian Wilkinson (left) and Ty Baker with Yasmin Walsh (top) and Heiker Cevasco from Gulf companion HMAS Melbourne.

Drive responsibly off-road.

**AND TO THINK, NOT PAYING TAX
USUALLY MEANS LOSING YOUR FREEDOM.**



THE BEST 4x4xFAR

For more information about a tax free Freelander, or other Land Rover products, call the Military Sales hotline on (+44) 181 410 8427 or visit www.rovergroup.com



People in the News



PT instructor joins the professionals at Plymouth

A DREAM came true for Navy Physical Training Instructor Mark O'Malley when he was asked to play with a professional football team.

The PTI from HMS Raleigh had spent a week putting the players of Third Division Plymouth Argyle through their paces in preparation for the new season.

During the training Mark's skills were noticed by Plymouth team Manager Kevin Hodges, and he was invited to play in a local match against Torpoint Athletic.

The match was a 1-0 victory for Plymouth with a goal from midfielder Chris Leadbetter in the first half, so Mark can say he has never lost a match in his professional career!

Afterwards, he said: "It has been a wonderful opportunity to work alongside a professional team and I have picked up some useful tips to pass on to new recruits during their training sessions."



● **KNEES UP:** Raleigh PTI Mark O'Malley (in red) puts Plymouth through their paces.



● **REUNITED:** Schoolmates Surg Lt Cdr Graham Johnson and Major David Kernohan, Royal Artillery. Picture: Cpl Lancaster, RAF

Fancy seeing you here!

AN INCREDIBLE coincidence brought two old schoolmates together for the first time in 16 years. Gibraltar Squadron's Surg Lt Cdr Graham Johnson hadn't seen his friend David Kernohan since they left King Edward VI school in Stratford.

So he was stunned to find him on his doorstep asking to borrow a cup of sugar, having been posted to the quarters next to him as a Major in the Royal Artillery.

The pair were in the same class at the Stratford school and sat next to each other for seven years.

But after their A levels, they went their separate ways, David to the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst and Graham to the University of London to study medicine.

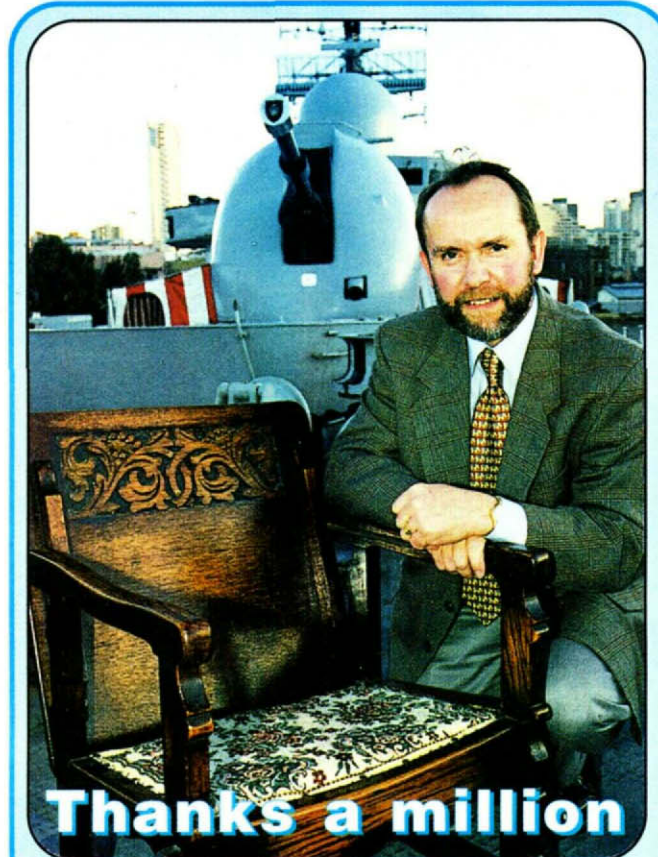
After renewing their acquaintance, both are now moving on again, with Graham going into private practice in Tavistock, Devon and David going to the Joint Services Staff College in Shrivenham, Wiltshire.

Both have young families and say that they will definitely be keeping in touch in future.

CBF flies with the Hawks

THE NEW Commander British Forces Gibraltar gained a unique overview of operations when he took a familiarisation flight with 74(F) Hawk Squadron.

Ten aircraft from the squadron were on a training mission in Gibraltar and Commodore Andrew Willmetts joined Flt Lt Adam Segal on one of the 186 training sorties which they flew.



Thanks a million
LT CDR Derek Abraham-Jones of the Royal Australian Navy had HMS Glasgow to thank for transporting a family heirloom half way round the world.

When the destroyer came alongside in Sydney he was able to collect an Edwardian chair bought by his late father, and to show his appreciation he presented HMS Glasgow's CO, Cdr John King, with a piece of aboriginal art.

Lt Cdr Abraham-Jones (above) is a Falklands veteran and was an RN lieutenant before emigrating and joining the RAN and the antique chair had been in storage in Cornwall since his father died ten years ago.

Derek said: "I had thought about bringing it over as freight but was worried about it getting lost or broken. Then a friend in Portsmouth told me that HMS Glasgow was coming over to Australia and put me in touch. I am very grateful."



● **HIGH FLYER:** CBF Gibraltar, Commodore Andrew Willmetts, with 74 (F) Squadron's Flt Lt Adam Segal. Picture: Cpl Lancaster, RAF

SING 'EM AGAIN!

55 NAVY SONGS ON THREE CASSETTE TAPES
("IN THE NAVAL SPIRIT", "ROUND THE BUOY", "SALLY FREE AND EASY")

SUNG BY THE SONG BO'SUN
CYRIL TAWNEY

"FULL OF RIPE AND IRONIC HUMOUR, NOSTALGIA AND SADNESS" - Navy News.

Price (inc. p.&p.): £8.00 each cassette (UK/BFPO only. Elsewhere £9.00 per cassette)

(All overseas payments in Sterling by IMO or cheque drawn on a British bank, please)

Orders and enquiries to CYRIL TAWNEY, 521 Meanwood Road, LEEDS, LS6 4AW.

INJURED THROUGH SERVICE OR SUBSTANDARD MEDICAL TREATMENT?

Contact Elizabeth Caple



JOHN HODGE & CO.
SOLICITORS
0117 929 2281

Immediate and FREE initial advice

Specialists in Personal Injury and Medical Negligence

Legal Aid • No Win-No Fee

Members of The Law Society Personal Injury and Medical Negligence Panels

WELCOME ASHORE!

The Royal Alfred was established in 1865 to alleviate distress among seafarer, both serving and retired, and their widows.

Today the Society provides full nursing care, as well as residential and sheltered accommodation, at establishments in rural Surrey and in Eastbourne. Convalescent and respite care is also available.

For further information, including the availability of accommodation, please contact the General Secretary.

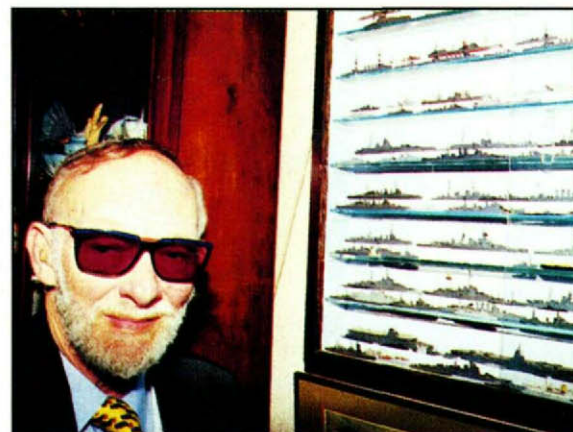
Royal Alfred
SEAFARERS' SOCIETY



Weston Acres, Room 30, Woodmansterne Lane, Banstead, Surrey SM7 3HB.
Tel: 01737 352231. Reg. Charity 209776

We rely heavily upon donations and legacies to achieve our charitable objects.
Please help us now with your gift, and remember the Society in your will.

Naval collection is a lifetime's work



● **COLLECTOR:** Mr Ronald Steele, who has spent a lifetime gathering Naval memorabilia. Picture: Mike Gray

THE HOME of a former airman is the unlikely setting for an unrivalled collection of Naval memorabilia.

Ronald Steele has made it "a lifetime's obsession" collecting lead model ships, postcards, cigarette cards and similar items - and now reckons it would be hard to put a price on them.

Although he was called up to serve in the RAF, his feelings for the Senior Service never wavered: "Ever since I was a very small child I always thought the most important thing to this country is the Royal Navy - it's the be-all and end-all," said Mr Steele.

That faith is reflected in the 500 or more tiny metal models, many made by Treforest Mouldings with prices of five or six shillings - Mr Steele still has the boxes they came in. All the ships of the Grand Fleet are there in showcases around his home, along with ships lost

at Pearl Harbor, German capital ships, and many modern RN warships.

Among the lead models sits a beautifully-detailed wooden one of the German Prinz Eugen, built by a sailor who served in her in the North Atlantic.

Mr Steele's interest in deltiology - collecting postcards - and philately opened new avenues, and he has mint-condition sealed sets of cards with stirring names such as Hearts of Oak, They All Love Jack and It's the Navy with market values of over £700 each.

Apart from the collections in their sealed packets, Mr Steele has 12 volumes of cards, with at least 250 cards in each volume - many of them rarely seen.

Among individual examples is one commemorating the world-record feat of coaling HMS Illustrious in October 1907 - 262.5 tons in an hour - and others from Japan to mark visits by British warships.

FREE VIDEO OFFER!

MASSIVE SAVINGS ON NAVAL DOCUMENTARIES AND NAVAL ACTION FEATURE FILMS!

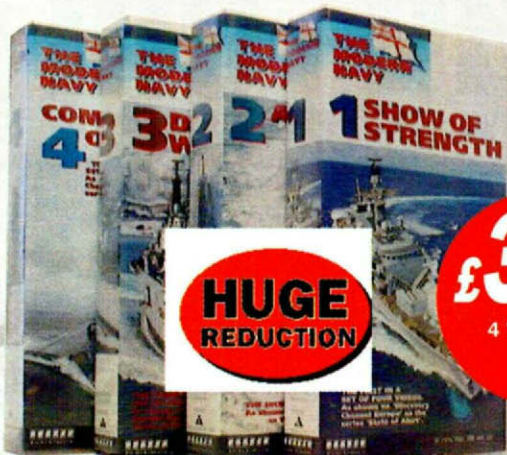


MASSIVE SAVINGS

£39.99

3 DBL VIDEO SET SPECIAL LOW PRICE

Victory at Sea - 26 episodes presented on 3 double videos from the award winning TV series comprise the definitive story of Allied and American naval operations during WWII.



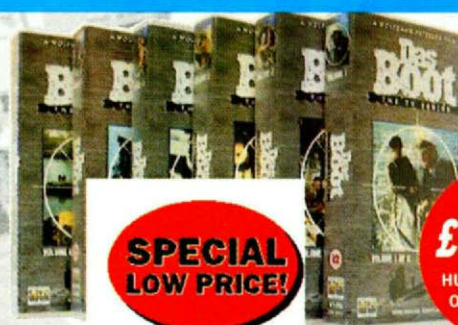
HUGE REDUCTION

£34.99

4 VIDEO SET GREAT VALUE

The Modern Navy - Veteran TV correspondent Desmond Hamill turns the spotlight on the British Royal navy in the post Cold War world. A unique insight into the modern navy.

Spend over £40 and select any one of the superb classic Naval Action feature films listed below absolutely FREE!! Alternatively, they can be purchased separately ...see below.



SPECIAL LOW PRICE!

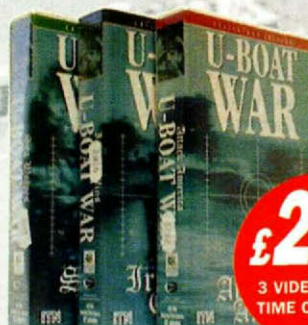
£39.99

HUGE REDUCTION ON 6 VIDEO SET

Das Boot - The TV Series

Six one-hour episodes, Das Boot is told from a German perspective. Portraying their life or death struggle, coping with hours of boredom giving way to terror when confronted by the enemy.

(English Sub-Titles)

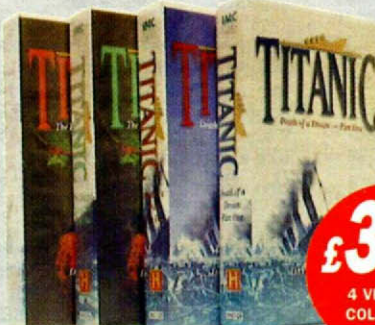


£29.99

3 VIDEO SET ONE TIME ONLY PRICE

U-Boat War

Of 38,000 men who served in these machines in WWII, 30,000 died. Making it their top priority, witness the allied strategies that made U-boat men suffer the highest mortality rate in any fighting unit in the history of war. Take a journey Inside the "Iron Coffins".



£34.99

4 VIDEO SET COLLECTORS ITEM

The Titanic

David MacCallum charts the infamous tale of the fated ship from its departure from Southampton to the bottom of the icy Atlantic. Recounted in news reels, diaries and interviews with survivors this comprehensive tale is a must.



MASSIVE SAVINGS

Battle of the Atlantic - £10.99 The most complete account of the U-boat war ever produced for the screen.

Battleships at War - £7.99 The story of how the battleship reigned in naval warfare from the start of this century to 1945

Sink the Bismarck - £8.99 An epic drama of the most violent and greatest sea hunt of the 20th century

Broadside: Battleships & Aircraft Carriers - £10.99 Relive the power of these ships from WWI to the Gulf War

Broadside: Cruisers & Destroyers - £10.99 The history of these fighting ships from 18th century frigates to today's cruisers

British Pacific Fleet - £10.99 The tale of the largest single ever force ever assembled by the Royal Navy in the Far Eastern Campaign

German Destroyers of Second World War - £12.99 All-purpose battleships showing off great versatility.

The Imperial Navy - £12.99 From Imperial Fleet to Scapflow to the end of WWII.

Stukas of the Sea - £12.99 High speed patrol boats - the most important offensive weapon on the seas.

Gt. Sea Battles of WWII - £7.99 After WWI an uneasy peace prevailed. Britain ruled the waves - but for how long?

Wings over Water - £10.99 Story of Fleet Air Arm. Classic torpedo bombers in action. 5 chilling deck crashes shown.



The Gulf War (Dble) - £17.99 There is no finer, or more comprehensive, account of the Gulf War.

Lusitania - £8.99 1100 people dead in 20 minutes. The forgotten story of the Lusitania.

Battle of Midway - £7.99 American forces repel a massive Japanese attack on this Pacific Island.

Nelson at Trafalgar - £8.99 The gripping story of the life and death of Britain's greatest sailor.

The Sea War - £8.99 Tells the evolving story of naval strategy and engagements from beginning to end.

The Ark Royals - £10.99 A fascinating look at life aboard these famous ships - the pride of the British Fleet.

Gt. German Battleships of WWII - £7.99 An in-depth portrait of the mightiest German warships of WWII including the sea battles they encountered.

Naval Action Feature Films

(Choose any one of these videos absolutely FREE when you spend £40 or more!)



A Night to Remember Starring Kenneth More & Honor Blackman - £7.99

Above us the Waves Starring John Mills & Donald Sinden - £7.99

They Were Expendable Starring John Wayne & Robert Montgomery - £7.99

The Sea Chase Starring John Wayne & Lana Turner - £7.99

Forever England Starring John Mills & Betty Balfour - £7.99

In Which We Serve Starring Noel Coward & John Mills - £7.99

We Dive at Dawn Starring John Mills & Eric Portman - £7.99

ALSO AVAILABLE: Run Silent Run Deep - £9.99 • The Cruel Sea - £7.99 • The Sea Chase - £7.99 • Hellcats of the Navy - £7.99

POST TO: PRESSPLAY LTD, FREEPOST CL3713, GREAT DUNMOW, ESSEX CM6 1XX (no stamp required)

press play

limited

Video Collections		
Victory at Sea - £39.99	<input type="checkbox"/>	Battle of Midway - £7.99
The Modern Navy - £34.99	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wings over Water - £10.99
Das Boot - £39.99	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Story of the Fleet Air Arm - £10.99
U-Boat War - £29.99	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lusitania: Murder in the Atlantic - £8.99
The Titanic - £34.99	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nelson at Trafalgar - £8.99
Naval Documentaries	<input type="checkbox"/>	War at Sea - £7.99
Sink the Bismarck - £10.99	<input type="checkbox"/>	History of the Submarine - £7.99
The Gulf War (dble video) - £17.99	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aircraft Carrier - £7.99
Great Sea Battles of WWII - £7.99	<input type="checkbox"/>	Naval Action Feature Films
Broadside - Carriers & Battleships - £10.99	<input type="checkbox"/>	Forever England - £7.99
Broadside - Cruisers & Destroyers - £10.99	<input type="checkbox"/>	Above us the Waves - £7.99
Battleships at War - £7.99	<input type="checkbox"/>	We Dive at Dawn - £7.99
Great German Battleships of WWII - £7.99	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Which we Serve - £7.99
The Sea War - £8.99	<input type="checkbox"/>	A Night to Remember - £7.99
The Battle of the Atlantic - £10.99	<input type="checkbox"/>	Run Silent Run Deep - £9.99
The Ark Royals - £10.99	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Cruel Sea - £7.99
British Pacific Fleet - £10.99	<input type="checkbox"/>	They Were Expendable - £7.99
German Destroyers of WWII - £12.99	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Sea Chase - £7.99
The Imperial Navy 1919-1935 - £12.99	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hellcats of the Navy - £7.99

Please include the following Postage & Packing Charges
For orders of 1-3 Videos - £1.99, Over 3 Videos - £3.99

Please send me the videos ticked I enclose my cheque/PO for £..... made payable to 'PRESSPLAY' or debit my Visa/Amex/Mastercard/Switch/Delta No

Expiry Date Switch Iss. No. Signature

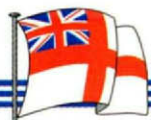
Name

Address

Post Code Tel No

Your order will normally be delivered within 5 working days, but please allow 28 days. Please note that orders received from outside the UK will incur a £3.50 per video carriage charge.

CREDIT CARD HOTLINE 01371 873138
HOTFAX 01371 873382



Letters Extra



RE THE new sailors' caps plan (August issue) – is there nothing new on this planet? I remember them bringing out the oval hat to fit oval heads, so keeping the top flat, "sans bow waves" in the 1950s.

But you are wrong in saying the round caps fitted badly. You both "grew" together. When I was in the – dare I say it – REAL Navy, the cap was an extension of the wearer. The Navy lived in their uniforms in those days and nobody wants to look peculiar, so all sorts of alterations were made.

It made a laugh of the word uniform – different coloured collars, no two alike in shade, some genuinely washed out, others helped with a generous daub of gas ointment!

When the round hat was on an oval head, it formed a nice sweep to the top. Most sailors then pulled down the sides and pushed up the fronts.

You could also tell what ships they belonged to: submariners had a fashion for wearing them rammed down over the eyebrows and square on; destroyer men had the most extreme style, usually a size too small and perched either towards the front at a slight angle or on the back, the tally being swung round so that the bow was at the front and the ship's name down the right hand side.

I had been forced, following a kit muster in HMS Belfast, to lose my tiddy cap and buy one of the hated ovals.

Well, I reasoned that if a round hat is pulled oval, one gets a shallow draught bow wave. So I picked out the vent (lace holes), blocked them up with chewing gum, and blanched over the whole lot.

At liberty inspection, when asked to show my cap, nobody

spotted anything and the Master at Arms was puzzled. – **P. Fender**, New Romney, Kent.

WHILE serving in HMS Hermes in 1968-69 I obtained a couple of Royal Australian Navy caps from the slop room at HMAS Leeuwin, the shore establishment at Fremantle. I also made a point of getting more on a subsequent visit in HMS Devonshire.

These were oval-shaped and had a very soft leather band inside and were, without doubt, vastly superior to the standard pusser's issue.

I also have examples of French and German junior ratings headgear and they are also better in every respect. – **C. Chappell**, Esh Winning, Durham.

IN 1946 some of the boys at HMS Ganges were issued with a new style oval cap.

These were very unpopular for two important reasons. They would not take a bow wave and without that how could you show off your big tiddy cap ribbon bow directly over your nose?

Also, they could not be worn flat-a-back. Without this type of headgear (with the ribbon reading anything but Ganges) how could you hope to pull the birds when on leave if you did not look like a real seagoing matelot? – **E. G. Blakeman**, Bromsgrove, Worcs.

I CAN recall very vividly losing a cap whilst travelling from Portsmouth on leave in 1945, by stupidly looking out an open door window on a fast train.

This meant leaving the train at Bristol, some 30 miles short of

Oval caps? We've had 'em before ...

my destination, in order to visit a Naval outfitters in the city. The cap that I bought there was definitely oval, even to the shape of the brim. I remember asking if it was legal and was assured that a lot had been sold. I wonder how many hats have been found on the line out of Portsmouth over the years? – **G. A. Field**, Dursley, Gloucs.

WHEN I reported for National Service in August 1948 at HMS Royal Arthur, Corsham, I and some 2,000 others were issued with two oval caps each. They were comfortable and sat very squarely on the head.

But, like my colleagues, I took the first opportunity to buy my own round cap from Naval tailors, preferring to let it bend into the shape of the head, giving it the traditional gentle curve on top, higher at front and back.

After training, we were drafted to a real ship, and of nearly 500 square rigs, only one oval cap could be seen, worn by the Captain's dinghy driver, who sported a red beard and always sat very erect in his cockpit, his cap absolutely horizontal. – **D. Cross**, Oban, Argyll.

IN 1949 I did my training as an aircraft mechanic with some ratings from the Australian Navy at HMS Gamecock, Nuneaton. Quite a few of the Australians

wore oval hats. It was apparently optional but not too popular.

I remember asking "Why oval" and was told that it stayed flat so could not be worn at the back of

the head. I am second on the left in this picture, the rating on the right is an Australian with his oval hat. – **R. I. G. Fairbrother**, Westbourne, West Sussex.



My beautiful launderette



COURTESY of the Central Amenities Fund, HMS Sultan has banished washday blues with a completely refurbished launderette and Jetwash/Jetvac – both demonstrated here by Commodore John Clayden. The former now boasts 20 hi-tech washing machines and ten industrial dryers.

Pictures: LA(PHOT) Glyn Shaw



Precious Jewellery

Sterling Silver Jewellery

The Royal Navy Crown is the design chosen for this range of jewellery. Each item is in Sterling silver and carries the English Hallmark.

All items presentation boxed



Brooch £32.99

Cuff Links £27.99

Tie Slide £27.99

Silver enamelled sails
£165.00 each

9ct red/yellow gold
£199.00 each

9ct enamelled sails
£250.00 each

Yacht Collection

This new collection of yacht brooches are manufactured in sterling silver, 18ct or 9ct gold. The range includes gold or silver with enamelled sails eg: blue/white, yellow/white, or blue/yellow, or plain gold with red/yellow gold sails.

All jewellery, whether 18ct, 9ct or silver carries a British Hallmark



Please telephone Navy News offices on 01705 733558 for further details of our full range jewellery and our special registered delivery service

THE BUSINESS MANAGER, NAVY NEWS, HMS NELSON, QUEEN STREET, PORTSMOUTH PO1 3HH

© CROWN COPYRIGHT/MOD
Reproduced with the permission
of the Controller of HMSO

For payment by credit card/switch, please see coupon on page 4.

Please allow 28 days for delivery. NB Illustrations are not actual size

Malaysia opts for Lynx aircraft

THE ROYAL Malaysian Navy has ordered six Super Lynx maritime helicopters at a cost of £100 million.

GKN Westland Helicopters chief executive Richard Case said: "This is the first order for the Super Lynx in South-East Asia, and it is fitting that it should be placed by the Royal Malaysian Navy."

"It was in 1988 that a Naval Air Wing, 499 Squadron, was established by the Royal Malaysian Navy to operate Westland Wasp helicopters, and I am delighted that they will now be the first in the region to be equipped with the Super Lynx, the most modern and capable of the Lynx family."

Six Malaysian companies are involved in the Super Lynx programme providing a range of products and services including ground support equipment and maintenance.

The Royal Navy helped the Malaysians set up the first Wasp squadron, lending teams who had experience of operating the helicopter from UK warships.

More than 400 Lynx helicopters have been sold around the world, and the Royal Malaysian Navy will be the 12th navy to have them in operational service.

Eyes of the Fleet look to the future

THE NAVY'S front-line early warning system will be able to see and communicate more effectively as its helicopters undergo a radical upgrade.

The Sea Kings of 849 Naval Air Squadron – the Navy's only airborne early warning (AEW) squadron – are to be converted from Mark 2 to Mark 7 within the next two years, allowing them to track large numbers of enemy forces more efficiently and to send the information back to friendly units rapidly.

The key to the new system is powerful pulse doppler radar, which can identify targets over land and has an integrated identification friend or foe (IFF) system.

The new mission system, designed by Racal Defence Electronics, will have multiple beams, enabling it to simultaneously track a large number of air and surface contacts, including aircraft or missiles, at various heights.

This information will be displayed as one integrated 'big picture' on screen, without background clutter – pulse doppler radar picks out only moving targets.

It is estimated the system will be up to 40 per cent more effective than existing systems, as well as being lighter and more reliable. Other contracts to upgrade and modify aircraft systems have been



● All-seeing – a Sea King helicopter from 849 Naval Air Squadron.

Picture: Lt Paul Spillane (849 NAS).

placed with Marconi Electronic Systems and GKN (WHL).

The Sea Kings will be fitted with a high-speed datalink to automatically transmit radar information to friendly ships and aircraft.

A flight are due to take the new Mk 7 Sea King into the front line in HMS Ark Royal in 2002, confirming the Navy's place at the cutting edge of the technology.

Looking further ahead, Sea Kings are due to be replaced by 2010, and options include converting to the Merlin AEW variant, or returning to fixed-wing aviation with the AEW V22 Osprey, to operate off the future carrier.

RN pilot Lt Cdr Rick Dane recently flew the Boeing/Bell aircraft for a Pentagon demonstration, showing the potential of tilting rotors to bring benefits of both conventional aircraft and helicopter.

The role of 849 NAS is to provide support for the two front-line flights, 849A (HMS Invincible) and 849B (HMS Illustrious), and it

trains airborne early warning (AEW) observer aircrew – a role which takes it to RAF bases and overseas to train with NATO allies.

The carrier-borne flights each operate three AEW Mk 2 Sea Kings, flying miles up-threat from the carrier group to spot low-flying aircraft and sea-skimming missiles.

Each flight has 50 personnel, 33 of whom are an engineering support team skilled in all aspects of air engineering, from changing filaments to complex sheet metal repairs.

Mechanics can be called on at any time to work on any aircraft system or component and all aspects of flight servicing.

Each flight has an air engineering officer and 15 aircrew. The standard aircrew is one pilot and two observers, trained in all aspects of anti-air and above-water warfare.

The aircrews can undertake a number of roles, including AEW, fighter control, surface picture compilation, deterrence of enemy submarines, and search and rescue.

Squadron born from necessity

849 NAVAL Air Squadron formed on August 1, 1943, in Massachusetts, equipped with 12 Grumman Avenger torpedo, strike and reconnaissance aircraft.

The squadron worked up and then travelled to the UK on board HMS Khedive, subsequently using RN air stations Hatston and Eglington, in Northern Ireland, as bases.

Moving to Cornwall, the squadron supported the Normandy landings, and in 1944 the aircraft took passage to the Far East in HMS Rajah, transferring to HMS Victorious, from where the squadron won Battle Honours for Japan, Palembang and Okinawa.

Disbanded at the end of the war, the squadron re-appeared in 1952 when 778 NAS, evaluating Douglas Skyraiders for airborne early warning (AEW), was redesignated a front-line squadron and embarked in HMS Eagle – the initiative being a direct result of the experiences of Kamikaze attacks during the war.

In 1960 the twin turbo-prop Fairey Gannet AEW III was introduced, featuring an improved version of the Skyraider's APS 20 radar.

The aircraft proved durable, and were still going strong when the last fixed-wing carrier, HMS Ark Royal, decommissioned in 1978, when 849 again disbanded, leaving the Navy with no AEW capability.

But the harsh lessons learned in the Falklands in 1982 led to the squadron recommissioning in 1984 with Westland Sea King AEW helicopters, as operated by both A and B Flights today.

Dummy deck debut

THE ROYAL Navy's Merlin programme clocked up another first when a helicopter from 700M Naval Air Squadron conducted its first landing on the Siskin dummy deck at RN air station Culdrose.

The deck, a mock-up of the flight deck of an aircraft carrier, is used to instruct members of the aircraft handlers branch.

In this instance, the flight deck party of RFA Argus were undergoing familiarisation training in readiness for the squadron's first embarkation trials later this year.

Normally, old airframes are used, to avoid the risk of damage to valuable in-service aircraft, but this time an operational aircraft was needed.

MG car sleuth seeks Marion

MG ENTHUSIAST Malcolm Bates is trying to trace a driver with a possible Naval connection – but the trail stretches back nearly 60 years.

Malcolm, a motor industry journalist, owns a pre-war T-Type MG which is still going strong.

And the signature in the buff log book, Marion Elizabeth Turner, with an address of the Manse of Ardentinny, near Dunoon in Scotland, set him thinking about what sort of owner had cared for the car through the war years until it was sold to a Blackpool man in 1951.

Now Malcolm has pieced

together the clues – and hopes someone can supply an answer.

It seems the manse in question was used by the Armed Forces as accommodation, possibly for HMS Armadillo, although there were other establishments, including combined operations bases, in the area.

By the summer of 1945 Marion was Mrs Tiller, although the car is still registered in her name, and before she sold the car its log book

featured addresses in Alphamstone, West Bures, Essex, in Eynsham, Oxon, back to West Bures, then Coniston in the Lake District.

Malcolm would be interested to hear from anyone who recalls the manse in Dunoon during the war, or who remembers Marion Turner/Tiller.

He would also be interested in photos of the car or its driver.

Contact Malcolm on 01462 700021.

Tattoo organisers seek participants

THEY HAVE the cause, and they have the site – now they need the performers.

The organisers of Tattoo 2000 are planning the programme for the event, to be held at Cheltenham race course on May 6.

The tattoo will benefit a number of youth groups, including Cheltenham Sea Cadet unit.

But tattoo chairman Steve Smith has had little luck in tracking down participants from a similar event a couple of years ago – most are

unavailable due to cuts or disbandment.

"We have a fine cause, a magnificent site and we need arena and static exhibitions," said Mr Smith.

"We intend to open to the public at midday and have arena events running continually, supported – we hope – by static displays by the military and the emergency services, along with ex-Service groups and charities."

Anyone who is available and could help should contact Mr Smith at 66, Albion Street, Cheltenham GL52 2RW.

Incorporated by the
Royal Charter



THE
ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION

Patron: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
Once Navy, Always Navy

Reg. Char. 266982

The Royal Naval Association believes firmly that "welfare is not only money". It offers a broad range of support to people with a Royal Navy connection. We are 'all of one company' in helping the disabled, looking after the needy, cheering up the distressed, maintaining naval traditions, supporting naval cadets, enjoying social activities and re-uniting shipmates. The 500 branches in the UK and abroad offer an instant 'network' of local knowledge and opportunities to shipmates going to live in a new place or starting a new career.

The association is for all serving and former officers, men and women of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, WRNS and QARNNS and their reserves.

For details of RNA membership, please complete the slip below.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

Postcode

SEND TO: THE GENERAL SECRETARY, ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION
82, CHELSEA MANOR STREET, LONDON. SW3 5QJ

Busy times

IT HAS been all go for Southern Diving Unit 2 as calm weather has yielded a bumper crop of problems.

The Portsmouth-based explosives disposal team dealt with two major German weapons in eight days – a 500lb bomb off Newhaven and a 2,000lb mine off Southend, both caught in trawler nets and both detonated by divers – as well as other ordnance such as old machine-guns dumped in the Camber Dock, Portsmouth.

Officer in Charge Lt Graham Wilson believes good weather, prompting fishermen further out to sea, may explain the sudden rush of work for the team.

Penfriends

HOW TO ADVERTISE: Simply write your message (MAX 15 WORDS) enclose cheque/PO for £10 (or more depending on the number of words) and send to: 'Penfriends', Navy News, HMS Nelson, Portsmouth PO1 3HH. Replies to your box number will be forwarded on daily. (Payment by credit card/switch please use coupon on page 4)

HOW TO REPLY: Any person who writes to an advertiser must use a stamped envelope bearing the advertiser's box number clearly in the bottom left hand corner. The letter should then be enclosed in a second envelope and addressed as above. We cannot guarantee that unstamped letters will be redirected.

Please note... you must be over 18 to advertise in this column

Name: Age:

Address:

Tel. No.:

SIX WRENS in Gumbret mid-August. Contact Chris, Mike/Gazza. **Box Oct 1**

IF YOU'RE totally bonkers and would like to write to a blonde 34 year old... Here's your chance. **Box Oct 2**

ATTRACTIVE FEMALE, 36. Seeks tall sailor/marine with G.S.O.H. for correspondence. **Box Oct 3**

THIRTY SOMETHING, looking for life's inspiration and a penpal! **Box Oct 4**

JENNIE (30), single parent. Needs genuine trustworthy bloke to see Y2K in with. Pref no civilians. **Box Oct 5**

TWO BUBBLY Mediterranean ladies (33). Seek male penfriends for friendship. **Box Oct 6**

ATTRACTIVE, SINGLE lady, unexpectedly 60. W.L.T.M. Officer for travel & future retirement. **Box Oct 7**

ANITA, 34, Yorks, 5'5", blue eyed redhead. Seeks penfriends 35/45. **Box Oct 8**

SARAH, 26. Seeks honest funloving sailor to write to. **Box Oct 9**

JAYNE 34. Would love to correspond with RN male 25-35. **Box Oct 10**

ATTRACTIVE LADY, 33, nurse, divorced. Seeks male friend Officer/sailor/marine, for friendship, correspondence. **Box Oct 11**

MICHELLE 32, 5'0", G.S.O.H. Enjoys travel, music, seeks naval penpals 30+. **Box Oct 12**

NURSE 27, G.S.O.H. W.L.T.M. SR/Officer of similar age. Seeks penfriend. **Box Oct 13**

SINGLE, TALL, slim, attractive, 30, female, with mad sense of humour. Seeks male. **Box Oct 14**

FIONA 38, attractive blonde/blue, 5'4", slim/medium. Ex Purser, no ties, photo appreciated. **Box Oct 15**

SAILOR, 29, blue eyes. Seeks lady for friendship maybe romance. **Box Oct 16**

SLIM, 36, blonde, honest, happy female. Seeks genuine serviceman penfriends. **Box Oct 17**

SINGLE, ATTRACTIVE lady, 42. Seeks sincere similar Officer for family commitment. **Box Oct 18**

SHERYLE, FAIR hair, blue eyes, 39, divorced mum. Offering caring family life news to marines/sailors. **Box Oct 19**

OFFICERS ONLY! Desired by attractive brunette, 37, 5'4", senior nursing sister, for fun/romance. **Box Oct 20**

BEVERLEY 35. Mum of one. Seeks naval penfriends. Photo appreciated. **Box Oct 21**

DASHING OFFICER, 29, tall, fair and fit. Seeking daring, discreet ladies for correspondence and more! **Box Oct 22**

DUE TO tyre kickers, foxy lady (24), still looking for single handsome hound (24-30). **Box Oct 23**

"ROSY POSY", (49). Wishes to correspond/friendship with sailor. **Box Oct 24**

YOUNG 43, attractive, slim, blonde Lancashire lass (smoker). Seeks attractive serviceman 35+. Photo appreciated. **Box Oct 25**

ATTRACTIVE 66YRS widow. Solvent, varied interests, widely travelled. Seeks penfriend, friendship. **Box Oct 26**

SINGLE FEMALE 33. Tall, fit, G.S.O.H. Enjoys walking & eating out. Seeks correspondents. **Box Oct 27**

CLARE 32. Enjoys pubs, motorbikes, homelife. Seeks honest, trustworthy male for friendship, poss romance. **Box Oct 28**

I AM a blonde with blue eye's wanting a penfriend. **Box Oct 29**

SUE, 41. Wants penfriends any age, G.S.O.H. essential. **Box Oct 30**

BLONDE LADY 24. Desperately seeking sailor, correspondence /friendship/romance. **Box Oct 31**

PERSONAL

PENPAL MAG for adults, choose yourself a new penfriend from over 500 photos. **APPROVAL** copy from **MATCHMAKER**, (A10) Chorley PR7 4BS, or ring 01257 480155 (24hours)

R.N. WIDOW 52, 5'2", slim, brown hair, hazel eyes, smart, funloving, honest but shy. Loves music, cinema, walking, good conversation. N.S., V.G.S.O.H. Would love genuine penfriend for friendship maybe romance, 50-60. **Box No 9675**

WANTED
MEN & WOMEN SERIOUS
ABOUT LOSING WEIGHT
IN THE NEXT 30 DAYS.

Money back guarantee.
Independent Herbalife distributor.
Call 01329 663524.
www.herbalife4us.com

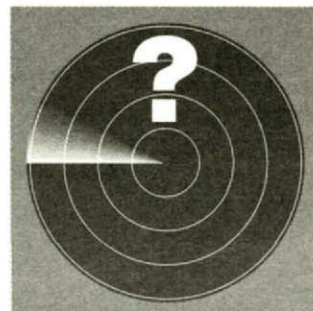
NOTICE

All advertisements submitted for entry into the Navy News Penfriend Column are subjected to copy approval. Navy News reserves the right to make any amendments which it considers necessary or to edit copy which is in excess of the number of words paid for. Please note: We can take no responsibility for the nature or source of the replies received.

You must be over 18 to advertise in this column.

Navy News Notice To Readers

The publishers of Navy News cannot accept responsibility for the accuracy of any advertisement or for any losses suffered by any readers as a result. Readers are strongly recommended to make their own enquiries and seek appropriate commercial, legal and financial advice before sending any money or entering into any legally binding agreement.



Some things coming to Navy News... keep your eyes peeled!



Help is at hand for bereaved families

A ROYAL NAVAL Bereaved Families Association has been formed by a group of Naval widows who have all lost loved ones engaged on active service.

The Association is an independent voluntary organisation which has been set up to provide emotional support for the newly bereaved, those seeking to rebuild their lives and those who have now rebuilt their lives.

It is intended not just for widows but for any family member who has lost a serving relative, including parents, and it is also for anyone in the Navy who may have been bereaved.

The Association is actively supported by Directorate of Naval Service Conditions and will complement the work of the specialist welfare organisations, the Naval Personal and Family Service and the Royal Marines Welfare.

The Association may be contacted by writing to the Chairman, Mrs Anne Auckland, PO Box 1, Building No 404, RNAS Yeovilton, Ilchester, Somerset BA22 8HT.

Alternatively, you can contact Mrs Auckland by telephone on 01749 860679 or 01905 453841.

Family Matters



Navy Days debut for Families Association

A STREAM of visitors made their way to the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Families Association stand at Devonport Navy Days.

It was the first chance for Service personnel and families to meet the organisers of the new Association and they said that they were very well received.

Chairman Maxine James said: "It was a very busy weekend with glorious weather and a great reception for the principles of the Association. Our ladies worked very hard and received some very positive feedback."



Trust aims to give kids a break

SERVICE families who have children with special needs may be interested to hear about a charity which can provide a break for their youngsters.

The Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust sponsors almost 2,000 seven to 18-year-olds from the UK, Ireland and other countries on week-long trips to Lourdes every Easter.

During their stay the children are looked after by volunteers and treated as honoured guests, taking part in a week of supervised activity including a visit to the famous grotto, processions, services and day trips to villages high in the Pyrenees.

For more information, or to volunteer as a helper for the next trip from April 23 to 30, write to the HCPT, 100A High Street, Banstead, Surrey SM7 2RB or telephone 01737 353311. The Trust also arranges pilgrimages for young adults.

Timeshare holidays up for grabs

TIMESHARE holidays are being offered for sale by the China Fleet Club (UK) Charity Trust.

They have 60 self-catering weeks for sale in attractive locations throughout the UK.

The holidays cost £425 and will be allocated through a draw in February.

For location details and an application form, write to The China Fleet Club (UK) Charitable Trust, Timeshares, Saltash, Cornwall PL12 6LJ.

Fun in the sun

A SUMMER play scheme at the Cockleshell Royal Naval Community Centre at Eastney, Portsmouth, was a big hit with children living on the family estate.

Run by the Naval Personal and Families Service, mums and dads and student nurses from the Defence Medical Training Centre at Gosport, the centre opened its doors to children every Monday and Wednesday evening in August and held a family disco and BBQ every Friday night.

Naval Personal and Family Service Community worker Gary Keith said that the children had a great deal of fun and attributed the scheme's success to the extremely hard work that all the volunteers put in.

Did you miss out on Halifax shares?

DID you miss out on a windfall from the Halifax Building Society's conversion to a bank in June 1997 because you were serving overseas in a 'non-permitted' territory, registered with a local post office or BFPO address?

If so, Major Paul McRory RA would like to hear from you. He is putting together a database of personnel, including those who have now left the Armed Forces, with a view to looking into the matter further and lobbying on your behalf.

Write to Major McRory, Normandy Barracks, Sennelager, BFPO 16, letting him know who you are and what your experience was.



ALL SMILES: Military Nurses Claire Williams, Amy Marsden, Dawn Proctor and Lyndsey Edwards with some of the children at the Cockleshell RN Community Centre.

'YOU CAN CLIMB AS HIGH AS YOU WISH, JUST BY YOUR OWN EFFORT'

New direction for older men at Dartmouth

NEARLY a third of the Navy's officers are now former ratings – and more of them are now able to make the change late in their careers.

This trend is mirrored in the Wardroom at BRNC Dartmouth, where the Senior Upper Yardmen's course is attracting people well into their forties, with the prospect of only one or two jobs as an officer before going outside.

Before leaving to take up his own new appointment as Director of Operational Management, NATO Regional Command North, Commodore Roy Clare – himself a former Upper Yardman and Ganges boy – insisted that the measure was not born of necessity.

"This is really not about gap filling – it's about making the very best use of all our people. Some people develop more slowly than others. Some join happily as junior rates and work their way up as leading hands and petty officers. Then maybe other influences of life come along, a desire for more pay, to take another direction in academic terms, the advent of children and other responsibilities.

"There are lots of reasons why people want to better themselves – and our answer is that you don't need to leave the Navy to do that.

"The bottom line is you can look any junior or senior rating in the eye and say 'You don't need to be where you are – you can motor on up'.

"The great thing about the Navy is it's a meritocracy. You can climb as high as you wish, just by your own effort – you can't say that in the other Services."

The specially selected cadet scheme at Dartmouth has speeded the process up, allowing candidates to skip at least a term.

"There are things they have seen and done already which they don't need to do again, and so we jump them ahead. Five of the Upper Yardmen, the engineers, are going to skip enough time to save a complete year of their degree course."

Talking to some of the SUYs, *Navy News* found one common criticism of the new courses was over the amount of physical



● Commodore Roy Clare

activity that had been cut down. Commodore – now Rear Admiral – Clare appreciated the older men's keenness to show they can keep up with the boys.

"But we need officers first and foremost to think and act and react instinctively as officers should – that is what this conversion course here is all about.

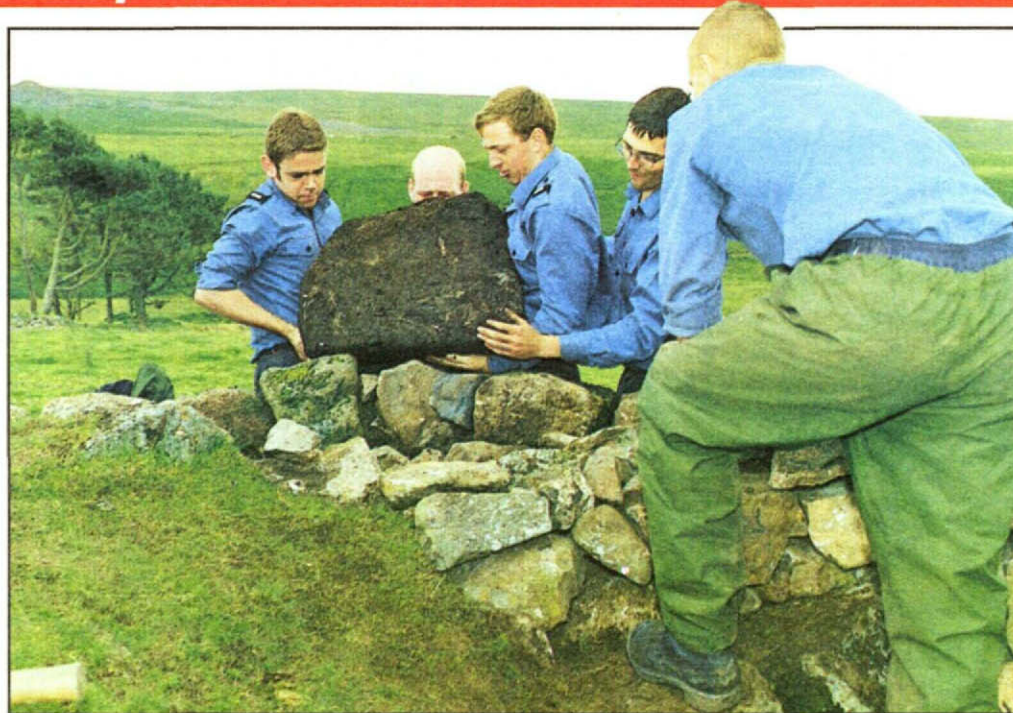
"We need to meet the Navy's new fitness test standard and all who come through the SUY course will have achieved that – I have no need to push for a higher standard.

"And at the stage when my would-be Naval officers end up looking like would-be Army officers, I'm not doing my job right.

"We have made a maritime leadership package to put in place of what used to be really an infantry leadership package. They will go afloat, regardless of branch or specialisation.

"Indeed, sometimes the engineers will ask me why on earth they are going to do this in a boat. Well, I have stood on the quarterdeck of a carrier and seen the officer of the day who happened to be an engineer directing sailors late at night when the ropes needed adjusting – if you're duty you do it, there's no-one else to turn to."

□ Admiral Clare is succeeded as Commodore BRNC by Commodore Mark Kerr, formerly Deputy Flag Officer Sea Training at Devonport.



● CHARACTER BUILDING: Fifty Officer Cadets from BRN Dartmouth help Dartmoor National Park Rangers rebuild dry stonewalling around Ditsworthy Warren.



WARRIOR
ServiceGuard

Why wait for the NHS?

Reliable Healthcare at a price you can afford

- Designed by Service families for Service families
- 24 hour GP medical helpline
- Dental treatment included
- Physiotherapy treatment included
- Emergency Worldwide treatment
- Covers all hazardous duties and pursuits

Personal
healthcare
protection

For more information call into any branch of Naafi Financial Services or telephone our dedicated call centre on:

00800 00142 142 (UK & Germany)

+44 1703 372 834 (Rest of World)

Lines open 8.30am to 8.30pm Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 4pm Saturday & Sunday (UK times) For your security calls may be recorded.



● YOUTH AND EXPERIENCE: Dartmouth Sea Cadets receive instruction in camouflage from Senior Upper Yardman S/Lt Nigel Carter – one of the few ex-RN ratings to have worn a green beret



Helping Hands



In Brief

Minibus cash

A CYCLE ride by six sailors from minehunter HMS Chiddingfold raised £800 towards replacing a school minibus destroyed by arsonists.

The six rode the 180 miles from Portsmouth to Port Talbot in 14 hours, where they were greeted by children from Tywyn primary school.

Trek effect

MEMBERS of 846 Naval Air Squadron based at Yeovilton raised £250 for Yeovil Hospital's children's ward by taking part in the Four Peaks Challenge Trek.

Magical result

TEAM Merlin lived up to their name by weaving their magic in the Cape to Cape challenge.

The team from RNAS Culdrose - Lt Cdr John Shallcroft and Lts Neil Brian, Steve Hayton and Steve Windbank, all Merlin helicopter aircrew - dashed the 3,700 miles from Norway to Spain in a record-breaking 56 hrs 55mins driving a VW Sharan lent by Helston Garages. They raised £3,000 for the Royal Cornwall Children's Hospital.

Sweet treat

SEARIDERS from Flag Officer Surface Flotilla had two gifts for Southampton General Hospital following a cycle ride and raffle - the team, led by WO(CT) Davis and CPO(AC) Milner, gave £1,117 to the Piam Brown ward for children with cancer, and brought a selection of sweets for the patients.

Island walk

EX-COPT Derek Pearce is to do a sponsored walk around the Isle of Wight to raise funds for a 15-year-old meningitis victim who had his legs and some fingers amputated. Potential sponsors for the walk, on Oct 30-31, should ring 01256 780612.

Prize donation

A SOFT toy raffle prize - named Rio - from HMS Westminster's Atlantic deployment has been donated to the Oncology department at Southampton General Hospital by its winner, S/Lt Rooney.

The clinic at the end of the world

Charities appeal for help

SEVERAL charities are organising fund-raising events in exotic locations - and are hoping Service personnel may be tempted to join in.

The Peper Harow Foundation, which helps children recover from traumatic experiences, is running a bike ride from Los Angeles to San Francisco in June 2000 - details from Jane on 0171 928 7388, or from the website at www.peperharow.org.uk

The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association offers several challenges next year, including Sinai Desert and Mt Kenya treks riding in Mongolia and rafting the Zambezi; details from Colin Hill on 01539 737500, fax 01539 737505, e-mail colin.hill@gdba.org.uk

Children Today, supporting children with disabilities, and Henshaw's Society for the Blind are involved in the Ultimate Challenge in Borneo in March, featuring a trek up Mt Kinabalu, cycling, white-water rafting and scuba diving. Ring Emma Leaman (Children Today) on 01244 335622 or Joanna Parry (Henshaw's) on 0161 872 1234 for details.

The official ballot for entries to the 2000 Flora London Marathon closes at the end of the month, and Mencap is fielding a large team. Anyone wishing to help them should ring 0645 777779.

Barnardo's is also seeking runners for the Marathon - ring 020 8498 7528 or 020 8498 7119 if you are keen to run in their colours.

Barnardo's also offers treks in the Holy Land in March and October/November 2000 (bike and foot), and in Peru in September - ring 08457 697967.

The Leonard Cheshire charity wants cyclists for a ride in Malawi in May/June (ring 0141 341 0790), and a bike ride round the Hebrides in August will raise cash for the Scottish Piping Centre (ring 0141 357 6650).

In April 2001 a canoe and trek event in Belize will raise money for the Royal Scottish Geographical Society - contact Simon Hamilton, 0141 341 0627, e-mail shamilton@easynet.co.uk

Faroes heroes

A COMBINED Cadet Force expedition to the Faroe Islands has raised £600 for the King George's Fund for Sailors.

During the expedition, led by Lt Cdr Peter Harvey RNR, of King's School, Rochester CCF (RN section), some of the cadets, drawn from schools around the country, sailed a yacht from Aberdeen to the Faroes, while those on the ferry used a rowing machine for the whole of the outward and return passages to raise the money.

A CLINIC in Nepal, instigated by a Naval family, needs cash to expand its life-saving work.

The clinic, in Meghauli, was born as a result of Peter and Beryl Shore losing their way on a trek.

A teenager, Hari Bhandari, gave them shelter and food, despite the poverty of his family, and a friendship was cemented.

Over the years, as it grew, Hari's dream of a medical centre for his village was taken up by the Shores, including their son Kevin - a Navy man like his father - with plenty of support from Naval personnel, many of whom worked in Gibraltar with Kevin.

The Friendship Clinic was built in 1997 by local people to serve some 60,000 people in a 50km radius. The village lies in a remote, isolated area near the Indian border.

The nearest hospital is two hours by bus, and patients walk for hours to reach the clinic - one man with a dislocated shoulder took six hours.

It has a full-time nurse and a doctor calls weekly, and this year it achieved charity status.

But Kevin, a POMA in HMS Endurance, believes lives can be easily and cheaply saved - and hopes colleagues in other ships will contribute to the cause.

"About 44 per cent of people who die in Nepal are killed by diarrhoea because of poor water, and the infant mortality rate is ten per cent," said Kevin, who has spent spells at the clinic to help build and run it.

"The clinic has seen over 10,000 patients, 6,000 in the last year alone, and it has cost £29,000 - that's less than £3 per patient, and less than the cost of a prescription in the UK."

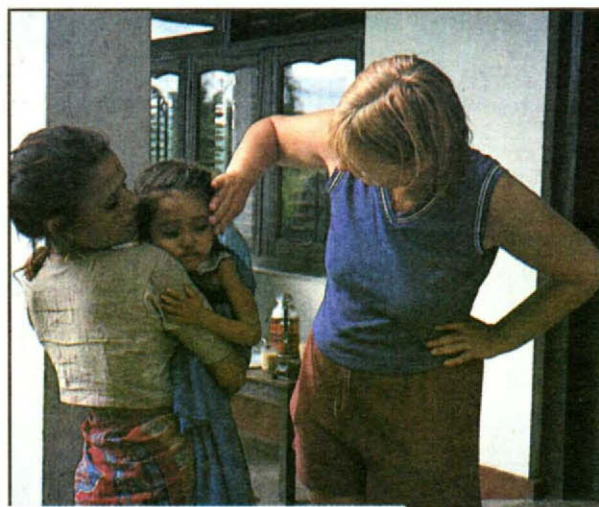
"We are aiming to enhance their lives, not change them, and that can be done by sinking safe wells, by educating them on health matters as well as treating them."

Kevin hopes to raise £17,000 a year, £10,000 of which will fund a full-time doctor and nurse, and he believes medical students and expeditions would find the chance to work there attractive.

Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world, and apart from diseases of poverty, the Meghauli area has seen 100 people killed by rhinoceros attacks since 1979, and 18 more killed by tigers - ironically, Hari's sister was injured by a tiger early this year.

"A girl came to the clinic having been gored by a rhino, and we treated her and she survived. If that means we saved her life, the £29,000 has been well-spent."

Those wishing to help, or raise funds for the clinic, can reach Kevin by e-mail on crumieholm@aol.com, or in HMS Endurance at BFPO 279. The clinic has a website at www.clinicnepal.org



● ABOVE: Sandra Howes, wife of WOMA Phil Howes, with four-year-old Laxmi Arayal, who is possibly ill with leukaemia.



● LEFT: The Red Cross ambulance outside the clinic in Meghauli.

Virtual coast path leads to dinghy

SPONSORED events by personnel at RN air station Culdrose has left the young people who attend the Bishop's Forum Activity Centre all at sea.

The centre, at Goodygrange, between Helston and Falmouth, caters primarily for children with behavioural difficulties and other disadvantaged groups.

And because of the efforts of those who took part in the sponsored cycling and rowing event, the centre has now been able to buy a Dory dinghy which will be used for

sea training.

The event, at the air station's sports centre, was a 500-mile course which matched the length of the South West Coastal Path which runs from Minehead to Poole.

It was completed in relays by a group of Culdrose personnel and instructors from Goodygrange.

Both Commodore Tony Hogg, Commanding Officer of Culdrose, and Bishop Bill Ind, the Bishop of Truro, shed their respective uniforms and donned sports gear to take part.



● Hats off - (left to right) PO Hughes, Lt Wood, PO Seaborn and Lt Young of RNAS Culdrose raise their caps as the dinghy takes to the water.

But this isn't a T-boat ...

MEMBERS of Scottish lunch club took up a challenge - and enjoyed a spot of tea and biscuits on one of the RN's Trident submarines.

Twenty of the Helensburgh Lunch Club visited HMS Vanguard, alongside at Clyde Naval Base, Faslane, as part of Brooke Bond Scottish Blend's Tea on the Water challenge, where organisations were asked to arrange get-togethers with a difference on or beside a loch, river or the sea.

The Congregational Church club members climbed 18ft down a ladder into the boat, where they were entertained in the junior rates' mess.

Three of them took advantage of a break in the weather to enjoy a cuppa on the casing. Pictured are Elizabeth Blackwell (left), Tony Jolly (president) and Irene Hunter, served by STD Tony Newman.

The event was part of a Scotland-wide initiative to raise the profile of the UN Year of Older Persons. The Armed Forces are gearing up for the SSAFA Forces Help 1999 Big Brew-Up.

As Navy News went to press, more than a quarter of a million people were expected to put on the kettle to raise money and awareness for the only national charity supporting the serving and ex-Service communities.



SHIP of the MONTH



Postcard-sized photographs can also be bought individually at a cost of 65p each (min. order £1.95) inc. P+P and there are over 500 to choose from in our free list. (Please allow 28 days for delivery).

Buy your subscription and album now and we will send you, absolutely free, a set of twelve assorted black and white postcards to get your collection started.

HAVE YOU STARTED YOUR 'SHIP OF THE MONTH' COLLECTION YET?

To: The Business Manager, Navy News, HMS Nelson, Queen Street, Portsmouth, PO1 3HH

Yes please! Add me to your 'Ship of the Month' subscription list now. I enclose a cheque for £

Name: Telephone No.:

Address: Postcode:

Cheques payable to Navy News, payment by Credit Card/Switch, UK & Abroad, please use the coupon on page 4



Helping Hands



In Brief

Chosen one

AIRCRAFT carrier HMS Ark Royal has adopted a residential home in Dunfermline as its sole charity affiliation during her two-year refit.

The ship's company – only 44 strong during the refit at Rosyth – chose the Bellyeoman Road project, a home run by the Aberlour Child Care Trust that cares for seven people aged between 11 and 22 with physical and learning disabilities.

And already a cheque for £242 has been handed over, the remains of the ship's welfare fund and late contributions to the cycle 'race' between sailors and the ship on her way from Portsmouth to the Forth.

Spoils of war

A SPONSORED wargame has provided TVs, video players, stationery and CD/video vouchers for the children's ward at St Mary's Hospital in Portsmouth.

The 24-hour game was staged by HMS Sultan's Wargames Club, whose chairman, Lt Ian Taylor, handed over the equipment.

Jolly good effort

AGROUP of OMs from the Communications Faculty at HMS Collingwood spent a week helping to refurbish the captain's jolly boat and a gig from the historic ironclad Warrior in Portsmouth.

WOM2s Heywood, Joyce, Osman and Parnham, and OM2 Mawdsley, then reaped the benefits of their hard work by taking to the water in the boat.

Bags packed

YOUNG footballers from the North East packed special bags for a trip to Boston, thanks to the Navy.

The teenagers, representing Sunderland schools, were invited on board HMS Sheffield and given special RN kit bags for the trip.

Dash for cash

A TEAM from HMS Collingwood was taking part in a Whitbread-organised 'dash for cash' from London to Amsterdam as Navy News went to press.

CC Steve Austin, CPO Taff Jones and Ms Vanessa Cheatham have only £50 and 24 hours to make the trip, and must raise more than £500 towards a minibus for the South Devon Sports Association for the Disabled.

Cadet force

TWO Sea Cadet units from the Portsmouth area helped SSAFA Forces Help Greenwich Division raise more than £330 at their Woolwich open weekend.

The units carried out a field gun run at the show.

Royal puts Botham on road to success



● **Stand by your bed** – the RN's Outdoor Leadership Training Centre at Talybont in Wales raised more than £900 for Penmaes School in Brecon and the children's ward at Nevill Hall Hospital, Abergavenny, on their annual bed push. The event started at the White Hart in Talybont, where landlord Owen Cartwright has been instrumental in fund-raising, and ended just over an hour later in Brecon. Bank's Brewery also supported the event.

Picture: Brecon and Radnor Express

FORMER England cricket hero Ian Botham should not go too far off course on his next sponsored walk – an ex-Royal Marine is his project manager.

Duncan March put expertise as a logistics officer – honed in ships such as HMS Fearless – to good use in scheduling the 34-day walk from John o'Groats to Land's End.

The walk, raising money for the Leukaemia Research Fund, starts on October 11 and is billed as the Finale.

Botham, the former Test all-rounder, has walked 3,380 miles in seven events for the Fund since 1985, raising over £1,000 a mile.

One walk was a gruelling Hannibal trek across the Alps with elephants in April 1998.

Duncan has had a considerable workload, from route-planning to organising food and rest stops, establishing communications links through a global positioning system satellite to the official Walk website and briefing the police.

He also speed-walked the Flora London Marathon with Ian in April – the sort of distance which will need to be covered on a daily basis on the walk.

Duncan said: "This autumn will undoubtedly prove a challenge, yet if the public get behind Ian for this

one last final push, from John o'Groats to Land's End, we can do justice to his massive efforts and all those fighting in the battle against leukaemia."

Duncan has urged the public to back the walk, either by supporting Ian on the road, by donating money, or organising events to coincide with the schedule.

The Leukaemia Research Fund is the only national charity devoted exclusively to improving treatments and finding cures for all forms of leukaemia and related blood cancers.

The official walk website address is www.lbw.org.uk

Donations aid home initiative

MAJOR donations have boosted redevelopment work at the Royal Naval Benevolent Trust's Pembroke House residential home.

Apart from the £500,000 from the Greenwich Hospital Trust (reported in August's *Navy News*), the United Arab Emirates branch of the Nautical Institute has given £10,000, and Peterborough and District branch of the Royal Naval Association provided £1,200.

Pembroke House, for sailors, Royal Marines, their wives and widows, in Gillingham, is being refurbished at a cost of £2.4 million.

Sun strokes

MEMBERS of the ship's company of destroyer HMS Birmingham braved temperatures of up to 45C during a 24-hour rowathon in aid of the Marie Curie Cancer Appeal during the ship's Armilla deployment in the Gulf.

■ **Final mission** – page 8

Joint bike force gathers £4,000

CYCLISTS from two Royal Navy vessels have raised more than £4,000 between them for charities in their affiliated communities.

Three submariners from Trident boat HMS Vigilant (Port) cycled from the boat's base in Faslane to the Isle of Man, via the Heysham ferry, raising £1,000 for the Mayor of

Douglas's charities and £500 each for a hospital children's ward and a children's home.

Meanwhile sailors from frigate HMS Iron Duke biked from Portsmouth to Hull, set on their way by Commanding Officer Cdr Clive Johnstone.

They hope to raise £2,000 which the Lord Mayor of Hull will present to the children's unit of Hull Royal Infirmary.



● **ABOVE:** Vigilant cyclists (from left) OM Del Stephens, Lt Cdr Steve Drysdale and CPO Johnny Hayzen-Smith.

● **RIGHT:** HMS Iron Duke's Commanding Officer, Cdr Clive Johnstone, starts the ride to Hull.



Good day at the beach as officers clean up

OFFICERS training at HMS Collingwood have spent a day on the beach – and all in a good cause.

The members of System Engineering and Management Training course 983 chose a 150-yard stretch of Hillhead beach to clean up as their community project.

They had contacted Fareham Borough Council to say they were seeking a worthwhile community cause, and the beach-clean fitted into the local authority's campaign to tidy up the borough.

● **On the beach** – the Collingwood team cleans up at Hillhead.



KGFS

THE SEAFARERS' CHARITY

HELP 'RESCUE' OUR SEAFARERS

Round the world yachtsman
TONY BULLIMORE

Tony, who survived five days in the Southern Ocean in his upturned hull during January 1997, says:

"I love the ocean but it can be horrendously dangerous. It takes lives – often.

Every day seafarers and their families face this deadly peril – and life ashore can be just as tough. Ill-health, inadequate care in later years, unemployment, homelessness, family breakdown and bereavement can all devastate veterans and those who serve in our Royal and Merchant Navies and in fishing fleets.

Your donation, however small, can make the difference to so many... a veteran of the World wars, Falklands or the Gulf... a merchant seaman without a ship or home... a widow whose husband died fishing for our food.

Please help those who give so much to ensure our survival."

I WANT TO HELP SEAFARERS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN NEED AND I ENCLOSE A CHEQUE (MADE PAYABLE TO KGFS)

for £5 ☐ £10 ☐ £20 ☐ Other

(please tick box as appropriate) (insert amount)

or please debit my MASTERCARD/VISA (delete) for the above sum

Card No

Expiry date

Name on card

Please register my name on your supporter database and send copies of your newsletter

NAME (Mr/Mrs/Ms)

ADDRESS

Postcode

Please complete and return to

KGFS 8 Hatherley Street

London SW1P 2YY

Tel: 020 7932 0000



Billy (104) is RNA's oldest member

Selby branch commissions

A NEW branch of the RNA - at Selby, North Yorkshire - commissions on October 9.

The ceremony begins at 1400 at Masons' Lodge, Church Hill, Selby. For those wishing to attend, maps are available from the branch secretary, Shipmate Ron Shilton (01757 228411) or you can e-mail him at: Tasape@hotmail.com

AT 104, Billy Wright is believed to be the oldest member of the Royal Naval Association, if not the oldest living ex-sailor.

Billy, who joined the Navy in 1910 and served in both World Wars, has been a member of Bromley branch for the past three years. He is visited regularly in his sheltered accommodation by his branch oppos, Shipmates Bill Wheeler and Stan Ballard.

In turn, Billy makes occasional visits to branch HQ where he enjoys a tot or two. At his home he mostly looks after himself, getting help with housework and laundry.

At the party for his 104th birthday, celebrated

last December, he was presented with France's Legion d'Honneur in recognition of his World War I service.

With a break of only four years between 1935-39, Billy served a total of over 30 years in the RN. In the 1914-18 war he served in cruisers, the battleship HMS Centurion and the destroyer HMS Contest.

Between the wars his ships included the aircraft carriers HM ships Eagle and Furious, and the battleship HMS Revenge. In 1920 Billy was in the Revenge when she was stationed at Ismir to protect British interests during hostilities between Greece and Turkey.

Recalled for service on July 31, 1939, he spent the Second World War in the cruiser HMS Ceres, in HMS Drake and at HMS Kestrel - the RN air station at Worthy Down, Hampshire.



● Billy Wright - still a Navy News reader at 104. He wears the Legion d'Honneur that he received last year. Picture: Alan Easterbrook

THE ROYAL NAVY OF WWII ON VIDEO

NEW...PART 11...E.INDIES/BRITISH PACIFIC FLEETS... (2nd PHASE)... Trinco, Sydney, Manus, Sakishima etc. Making maximum use of all surviving RN archive film, including colour, this 2nd Phase video continues the epic story of both these fleets. All other episodes still available. Part 9 Op.Neptune (D-Day period) Part 8 Op.Torch. Part 7 Hazards of Russian Convoys. Part 6 Perilous Waters (action in the Atlantic). Part 5 Tragedy & Triumph (Bat. of N.Cape) down to and incl. Part 1 Battleships at War. Each is 60 mins. Price UK £21.90 post paid. Elsewhere add £3.05. For multiple orders large discount available. Full details of this & all programmes send SAE.

N.V.T.C. BECK HOUSE, ESCRICK, N.YORKS YO4 6JH (01904) 728239

... and Taffy (92) takes flight of fancy



FOR 92-year-old Littlehampton member Taffy Hughes, flying holds no fears - even when, although registered blind, he takes the controls.

His feat is captured in this Littlehampton Gazette picture, after he won a competition for a session at the controls of a Piper Warrior aircraft operated from Shoreham Airport by Southern Air Ltd.

Taffy said: "I couldn't even see the instrument panel, but it was a lovely feeling being up in the air."

"After about five minutes the pilot (instructor Peter Galyer) said, 'right, you've got control', and I flew over Arundel Castle and Littlehampton before going out over the Channel and back to Worthing Pier."

Taffy occasionally piloted a friend's Tiger Moth in the 1930s. He won the prize through a competition at a local day club for the elderly.

LAND-ROVER
FREELANDER
If You're Looking For a New Vehicle,
You're Getting Much Cooler!
Park Lane
0171-514 0400

MONEY OFF!
Navy News promotional items*
when you take out a
2 or 3 year subscription
For every 2 year subscription
Get a £3 Discount Voucher
For every 3 year subscription
Get a £5 Discount voucher
For a limited period only!
(* offer excludes subscriptions)

Subscribe to
Navy News

- A Subscription means you will be:**
- First to see the latest Navy News from around the world
 - First to receive Special Offers
 - Your copy is delivered to your door, hot off the press

Telephone 01705 826040

To Navy News, Business Manager, HMS Nelson, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England PO1 3HH
Please send me a Navy News hot off the press every month. I would like the subscription for UK at the special rate of 1 year £15.00 2 years £27.00 3 years £39.50
OVERSEAS SURFACE MAIL INCLUDING REPUBLIC OF IRELAND, EUROPE, CANADA, USA & AUSTRALIA 1 year £18.50 2 years £32.00 3 years £46.00

☐ This is a new subscription
☐ Renewed subscription
Please start subscription from month.....

Name

Address

Post Code

Telephone No.....

• AIR MAIL PRICES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST •

In Brief

BEFORE attending the Royal Tournament, 43 members of No. 8 Area branches were guests at a barbecue hosted by Uxbridge branch - and on the way home were entertained by Bletchley branch.

SHIPMATES Pat Rate and John Sted of Peterborough branch, on a visit to Pembroke House to see the £2.4 million redevelopment, presented a plaque on behalf of the branch, which has donated £1,200 to the project. Meanwhile, Waterlooville branch, helped by the widow of Shipmate Tony Cook, have raised almost all of the £1,500 needed to have a room named after him at the home.

FIFTY shipmates from Wigston & District visited Chatham Historic Dockyard followed by a visit to Gravesend branch. The previous month members danced and were entertained as guests of Birmingham Nautical Club.

TO RAISE funds for charity, members of Sturminster Newton baked cakes which were sold at a street stall, raising £85. Shipmates Gordon Chambers, Harry Sculthorp and Roy Gould helped man the stall.

MEMBERS of Carshalton branch visited Eastbourne and East Grinstead branches and presented them with plaques.

THE combined branches of Perth and Marmion, bearing the White Ensign, took part in Anzac Day at Perth, Western Australia.

PICTURE PUZZLE



WINNER of our August competition was Mr T. Stirling of New Milton, Hampshire.

He correctly identified our mystery picture as that of HMS Blackburn, built as an aircraft transport and later used as an RNVR drill ship. His correct reply, picked at random wins him £30. For another £30, in this month's teaser you also simply to name the ship and

her original use.

Complete the coupon and send it to Mystery Picture, Navy News, HMS Nelson, Portsmouth PO1 3HH. Coupons giving correct answers will go into a prize draw to establish a winner.

Closing date for entries is November 15. More than one entry can be submitted, but photocopies cannot be accepted.

Do not include anything else in your envelope: no correspondence can be entered into and no entry returned. The winner will be announced in our December edition. The competition is not open to Navy News employees or their families.

MYSTERY PICTURE 56

Name

Address

My answer

Association

Cavalier chosen for Christmas card

MARINE artist Kenneth King's portrait of HMS Cavalier in company with HM ships Blake and Ark Royal has been chosen as this year's RNA Christmas card.

HQ remind members that orders should be placed now. The cards are available at £2.50 for each pack of ten.

Send your order and cheque to: RNA, 82 Chelsea Manor Street, London SW3 5QJ, or telephone your credit-card order to 0171 352 6764.

The picture is familiar to Navy News readers – it was used on the front cover of our HMS Cavalier supplement in June, soon after the ship arrived at Chatham Historic Dockyard.



Around the Branches

Drifffield

The RNA's 500th branch has dedicated its new standard following a service at the Methodist Church conducted by the branch chaplain, the Rev Stephen Balos.

Thirty standards led a parade of 150 shipmates through the town to the music of the Kingston Pipe Band. The salute was taken by Commodore Paul Sutermeister, Northern Regional RN Officer. The branch held a gala social in the evening attended by 320 members and guests.

Harwich

When Dartmouth training ship HMS Orwell visited her affiliated town of Harwich, branch members held a social evening for the ship's company. A framed photograph of the ship was presented to the branch, and during the visit, members were entertained on board and attended a civic reception for the ship's company.

West Bromwich

To mark the 27th birthday of the club, members turned up in strength for an evening's entertainment and buffet supper. The drive is now on to provide a new standard next year, and the club's 260 members are involved in a variety of fund-raising activities.

Letchworth & Hitchin

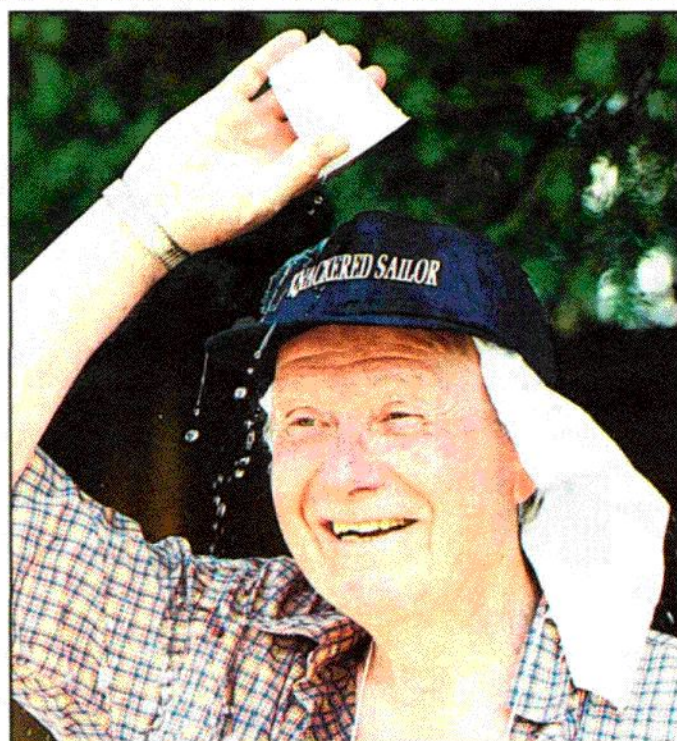
Shipmate John Green, on holiday in the UK from Malta, where he has retired, received a surprise presentation of a branch sash.

It was presented at a branch meeting by the chairman, Shipmate Les Denton and president, Shipmate Jack Grant, on behalf of the Malta branch.

Members congratulated Shipmate Laurie Cook on being made MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for his work in the Scout and Guide movement.

Wivenhoe & Emlstead

After the success of an exhibition staged by the branch last year, a bigger and better one took place on August 28 at Brightlingsea Essex Community Centre in aid of King George's Fund for Sailors.



The branch now has its own computer, donated by Anglian Water, in recognition of its fund-raising work for maritime charities.

Hanworth

The club's memorial garden was the setting for an annual remembrance service conducted by the branch chaplain, the Rev Paul Williamson. During the service, attended by 170 shipmates and guests, the ashes of members who crossed the bar last year were interred and crosses laid. Organist June Charles provided the music for the service and a social later.

Helston

A proper Cornish pasty was the thing Shipmate Bill Tucknutt missed during his five-year stay in Australia. On return, founder member Bill was reunited with fellow founder members, Shipmates Bill Trise and Bunny Belby who had

the best Cornish pasty available, ready for the returning exile.

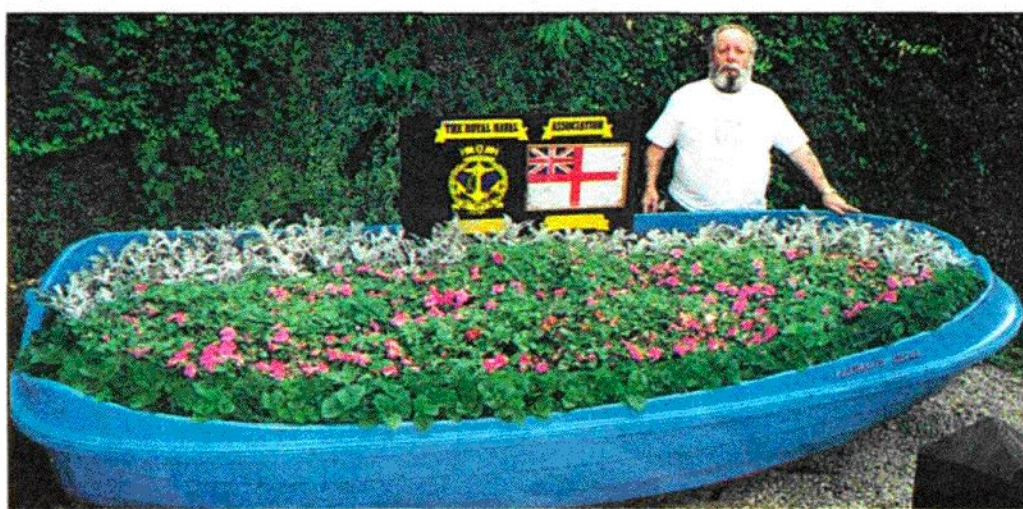
City of Glasgow

The branch standard will be dedicated at a service at Glasgow Cathedral at 1100 on October 24, followed by a civic reception.

The previous day the branch will hold a dinner dance to which other shipmates are invited. Those wishing to attend the dinner dance and/or service should contact Shipmate Brian McKenzie on 01360 622767 soon.

Deal & Walmer

The branch's Trafalgar Night dinner will also celebrate the branch's 21st anniversary. Those who wish to attend (tickets £20) should contact Shipmate M. R. Jarrett (01304 368554). Guests of honour will be the National President, Vice Admiral Sir Roy Newman and Lady Newman.



● Skipped by Shipmate Jim Watkins, secretary of Redruth & Camborne branch, this boat was one of many floral displays on Murdock Day – held at Redruth to celebrate the life of William Murdock, the inventor of gaslight. Over 100 street stalls, one manned by the RNA, attracted some of the biggest crowds seen in Redruth.

Sea Sunday round-up

FALMOUTH parish church was decorated with blue and white flowers for the branch's Sea Sunday service. It was conducted by Canon Roger Gilbert assisted by the Rev Barrington Bennetts and HMS Sultan chaplain, the Rev Garth Petzer RN.

Lessons were read by branch president, Vice Admiral Sir James Jungius and the harbourmaster, Capt David Banks. Guests included the High Sheriff of Cornwall, Lt Cdr Nicholas Trefusis; Commodore Tony Hogg, CO of HMS Seahawk; and the Mayor, Cllr David Breaker.

Littlehampton's pierhead service was conducted by the Rev. R. J. Caswell after which wreaths were cast on the River Arun. To the music of the TS Implacable band, shipmates led by the national standard, No. 3 Area standard and 14 branch standards marched to Butts Yard where the salute was taken by the branch president, Shipmate M. Woodward.

At Maidstone, the standards of No. 2 Area led the parade to the service at Aylesford village church. It was conducted by the Rev Paul Francis. Guard of honour was provided by Sea Cadets from TS Scott.

Members of Crawley branch held their service at St Michael's Church, Lowfield Heath near Gatwick. It was conducted by the branch chaplain, Capt Kirtley of the Church Army Brigade.

Harry is hot on the trail of Chichester Millennium project

SHIPMATE Harry James cools down while on the 25km City of Chichester International March.

He was taking part to raise funds for the branch's Millennium project – the planting of a tree and erection of a plaque to commemorate those who lost their lives at sea and have no known graves.

Picture: Chichester Observer

MILLENNIUM PRODUCTS

* 4 Seater £47

* 6 Seater £51

* 8 Seater £57



* Quality treated pine
* Strong & robust
* Water repellent
* All nuts & bolts galvanised
* Free delivery on 6 or more products

FREEPHONE 0800-092-0750

* All prices subject to VAT

Ref: NN010



NAVY OFFER

LINE RENTAL ONLY £14.99 including VAT

CONNECT BEFORE 30TH SEPTEMBER 1999 AND RECEIVE £10 OF OFF-PEAK CALLS FOR 12 MONTHS

NATIONAL CALLS FROM JUST 1p PER MINUTE

AUTO ACCEPTANCE WITH CREDIT CARD

BOSCH GSM-Com 608

FEATURES INCLUDE

- 70 HOURS STANDBY
- 150 MINUTES TALKTIME
- 3 YEAR WARRANTY
- CALLER IDENTIFICATION
- CALL WAITING
- SMS AND DATA
- DIMENSIONS 134x53x23mm
- RAPID CHARGER
- 99 NUMBER MEMORY
- BUILT-IN CALCULATOR

BOSCH 24 HOUR HANDSET EXCHANGE WARRANTY

FREEPHONE: 0800 3282777

Quote reference: NNEWS SEP99 9am - 9pm 7 days a week

INCLUDED IN OUR EXCLUSIVE PACKAGE

BOSCH 608 POCKET PHONE

FREE CONNECTION SAVING YOU £35

£10 FREE OF OFF-PEAK CALLS FOR 12 MONTHS

FREE ITEMISED BILLING

FREE ACCESSORIES WORTH £50

EX LRO(G) STEVE MORRIS SALES DIRECTOR SAYS

'Give my staff a call for friendly, helpful advice on all phones and every network'

National Telecom
Member of the Radiophone Group



'All these long signals . . . No wonder I've got a Repetitive Strain Injury!'

NEWSVIEW

Overtaken by events

AS *Navy News* "went to bed" last month HMS Glasgow was in East Timor, doing her bit in the latest crisis to hit yet another place most of us had never heard of.

At the same time HMS Somerset was heading south, preparing to look after our interests in the Falklands while keeping a weather eye open for any further explosions of internecine strife in West Africa.

It is her second deployment this year – she has already proved her worth off Kosovo, likewise a spot on the map that gets a miss at GCSE-level geography.

Meanwhile HMS Exeter was on her way to take over Armilla patrol duties in the Gulf, an ongoing commitment for the RN for nearly 20 years now.

So the Navy maintains its global reach, even if our resources are spread pretty thinly – as Defence Secretary George Robertson has admitted with regard to our relatively modest contribution to the peacekeeping force in East Timor.

The way ahead for our Armed Forces in dealing with crises of this sort increasingly lies in the deployment of joint forces. But the Commander-in-Chief Fleet has observed that the development of one of the key elements in the establishment of JF2000 – the interoperability of the RAF with the Navy's carriers – has been held up by the pace of operations over the past 18 months.

The Strategic Defence Review may have got it right in predicting the shape of wars to come and the style of the forces needed to fight them. In the meantime, what we have to fear most is what Harold Macmillan famously said he mostly feared in the world of politics: events.

They have a nasty habit of overtaking the best laid plans.

Showing our true colours

If the Navy's assets are further stretched than they once were, it is a paradox that communications have burgeoned in the same period, so that the 'global village' has become more and more a reality.

Scenes of carnage in far-flung places are shown against a backdrop of burning and bombed out buildings whose style and decoration with the logos and icons of western consumerism make them uncomfortably familiar, tending to suggest that these things are happening to "people like us".

In reviewing the conflicts of the past, we have been conditioned to see things in black and white, archive film and stills photography conveying a grainy, distant impression of times that have no relevance to ours.

In this respect, the ITV series *The Second World War in Colour* has been a revelation. Black and white may look arty, but colour has more immediacy, certainly to the present generation who have no first-hand experience of the horrors of war.

Coming so soon on the heels of the 50th anniversary commemorations of the end of World War II, the current crop marking the outbreak of the same may seem to be overplaying the point.

Yet a recent survey of 400 sixth formers showed that fewer than half of them understood the reasons behind D-Day.

So it is a point that needs to be made over and over again. Not so much as a reminder of the past as a warning to the future. More than anything else, World War II has shaped our century. And, it has been argued recently, it is not over yet. It may well do much to shape the next.

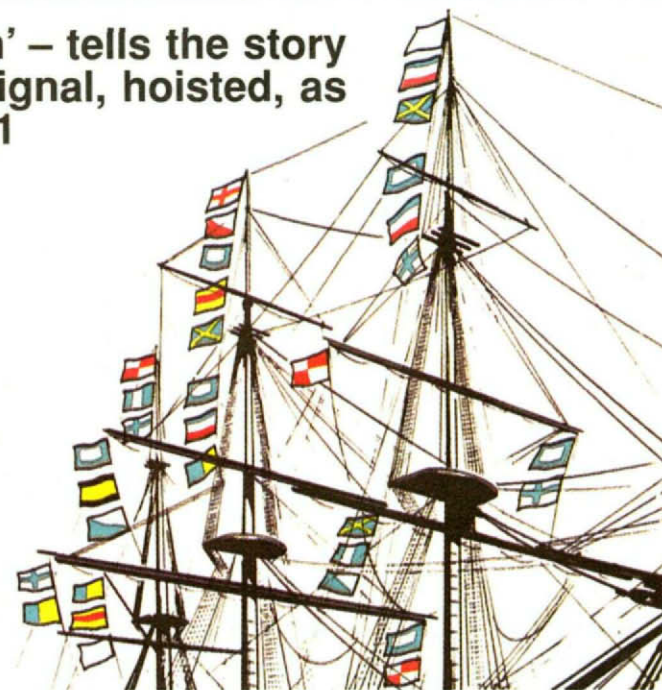
'ENGLAND EXPECTS'

Cdr Bruce Nicolls – 'The Flag Man' – tells the story behind the Navy's most famous signal, hoisted, as ever, in HMS Victory on October 21

JUST before the Battle of Trafalgar, when Nelson came up from his cabin on to HMS Victory's quarterdeck after writing his famous prayer, he had the idea that a final exhortation from him would lift his men and carry them through, making his fleet a truly irresistible force.

There is a strong belief that what he originally wanted to say was "NELSON CONFIDES THAT EVERY MAN WILL DO HIS DUTY", but it was suggested to him that "ENGLAND" would be more appropriate. His signals officer, Lt John Pasco, pointed out that "CONFIDES" was not in the vocabulary code that would be used for this signal, and suggested "EXPECTS" instead. Nelson replied "in haste, and with seeming satisfaction": "That will do."

The signal was now a lot easier to make, but the changes in the wording changed the whole tone of the message. Instead of a personal one



● TALKING FLAGS: Nelson's signal "England Expects", as made from HMS Victory (above) with the code for "England" (left).

from a very popular admiral, expressing his confidence, it became an impersonal, almost doubting signal.

"EXPECTS" was an easy alternative to "CONFIDES", being on the same page of the code book as "ENGLAND", but if Nelson had not been in a hurry to hoist his favourite signal: "ENGAGE THE ENEMY MORE CLOSELY", he surely would have told Pasco to look again, or he might well have remembered himself that the word "KNOWS" was in the vocabulary. He surely would have preferred to say: "ENGLAND KNOWS THAT EVERY MAN WILL DO HIS DUTY".

Nevertheless, the signal had its desired effect, and cheers rang round the fleet, although some sailors did remark that, surely, His Lordship knew that he could depend upon them.

The famous signal was a long one, of twelve groups of up to three flags each, the last four groups being needed to spell the word "DUTY" which, strangely for a military code, was not included in the vocabulary. Nelson's second-in-command, his friend Vice Admiral Collingwood, had already received one long signal from him. He remarked: "I wish Nelson would make no more signals, we all understand what we have to do." But when shown the decoded message, his comment was: "Great man, I forgive him."

As soon as the signal was repeated by the frigates, Nelson ordered "ENGAGE THE ENEMY MORE CLOSELY" to be made. This signal came from the basic Admiralty code book and needed only two flags. When Nelson had briefed his captains before the battle, he had said to them: "No captain can do very wrong if he places his ship alongside that of an enemy" and now he was reminding them of his instructions, although it was hardly necessary. As was Nelson's custom with this signal, he kept it flying, and there it remained until shot away.

The roar of cheering which rang around the fleet when "ENGLAND EXPECTS" was made rang out again, and as it died away was replaced by the sound of the guns.

□ Cdr Nicolls is currently advising the Royal Naval Museum on an interactive display to involve hoisting signals from the Signal Book for the Ships of War of 1799. The museum's new Victory Gallery displays will be opened by the Princess Royal on Trafalgar Day, October 21.

This year's Trafalgar Day Service in Exeter Cathedral will be held on Sunday October 17 at 11.30a.m. All are welcome.



Divers squeeze into new areas

NAVAL divers in Scotland have played a key role in the development of a new set of equipment which could bring major engineering benefits – and possible savings.

Members of the Northern Diving Group, based at Faslane, have been testing a custom-built enclosed-space diving system (ESDS) to gain access to areas which senior diver WO Andy Brunton described as “like threading a diver through the eye of a needle.”

“Sometimes divers need access to areas such as the pressure hull of a submarine under water,” said ESDS trial director WO Brunton, a Naval diver for 25 years.

“The diver has to be threaded in through a man-sized hole, fed with air by an umbilical, with a camera. The gear is based on cave-diving equipment.”

Using the new gear, divers can enter a small, submerged hatch, climb up to the space beneath the casing – dry when a submarine is surfaced – and work. Ordinary, bulky diving gear would be virtually useless in such conditions.

“It means instead of docking a submarine or ship you can do a video survey first, then dock if necessary,” said Andy.

“It really opens our operational window in engineering in that we can get into tighter and tighter situations.”

Initial tests were carried out at a Faslane jetty using a mini container in five metres of water with two holes – one rectangular, 51cm by 52.5cm, the other a 60.7cm by 45.7cm oval.

Inside was a bench to further restrict the diver's movements, and provide practice engineering tasks.

“This is the first time we've had a piece of diving kit specifically for engineering, rather than modified gear,” said Andy.

“ESDS was produced specifically for such underwater tasks, and it shows people that the diving branch must be taken seriously in this role.”

The project was initiated by MOD Abbey Wood, and the Superintendent of Diving tasked the Northern Diving

A Royal Navy diving system trialled in Scotland could open up new engineering possibilities. MIKE GRAY reports.

Unit to do the trials, with help from the Southern Diving Group.

Specifications cited the kit should be based on commercial off-the-shelf gear, but as there was nothing suitable it went to tender, and Divex prevailed.

“It is proving so useful for engineering tasks such as those in the confined spaces under submarine casings,” said Andy.

“ESDS can be used in a compartment that starts out wet and ends up dry, though we would stay on gas while inside.”

“That sort of work is very different to most sorts of diving, because normally if you have a problem you ditch your weights and come to the surface.”

“With ESDS you cannot ditch your weights because you have to go back down to the access point to come up to the surface, which is not normally something we like to do.”

“And what we are trying to do in water, with an umbilical which can get snagged, is what a dockyard worker may find difficult to do in the dry.”

“Access and egress is the easy part. Quality assurance of the engineering work is vital – it's all put on video for engi-

neer officers who can be watching, directing the diver.”

The video link, along with the air supply, com-

munications and lighting, goes through an umbilical cord, and the diver has a light and a video camera fixed to his bump-hat.

“We get the diver into the compartment, and once he is comfortable, the diver supervisor hands over to a technical person – the first time this has happened,” said Andy.

“Although he doesn't control the diver's life support, he controls the work, so experts have a say in how a torque wrench is used – that sort of thing.”

“The whole philosophy of this sort of diving is that everything is done slowly. Once you get into the compartment you can do all sorts of damage like ripping through cables.”

“Inside the compartment may be tight – spaces can go down to three feet maybe – but it may open up, and what we are doing may be heavy engineering and lifting.”

Older diving equipment uses various boxes for commu-

nications, air, and light. With ESDS it is all in one, making the system simpler and cheaper to transport on commercial aircraft and to deploy overseas.

Although the safety of the diver is of utmost importance, Andy said the primary aim of the equipment was to facilitate demanding engineering work, so the focal point is the video.

“The kit can be hooked up to digital facilities and real-time video links, allowing experts to make decisions in Abbey Wood based on fact, not verbal reports,” said Andy.

The system has four levels of safety.

If the primary air supply fails, he carries a self-contained bale-out system strapped to his legs, and if the bale-out goes, the diver keeps an emergency breathing system (EBS) close by.

The worst-case scenario is when the mask fails – everything comes through the mask.

In that case, the diver would remove his mask – an unnerving operation in a confined space under water – put the demand valve in his mouth, and don a half mask.

He could also plug into the EBS, and if his umbilical is snagged, he can ditch everything and escape on EBS.

Andy feels the project was successful because divers worked with Divex to get kit designed for purpose – and it has huge potential.

“For example, it can be used for shallow water salvage work, and can take the place of a lot of kit down to 30 metres,” he said.

The trials programme ended in

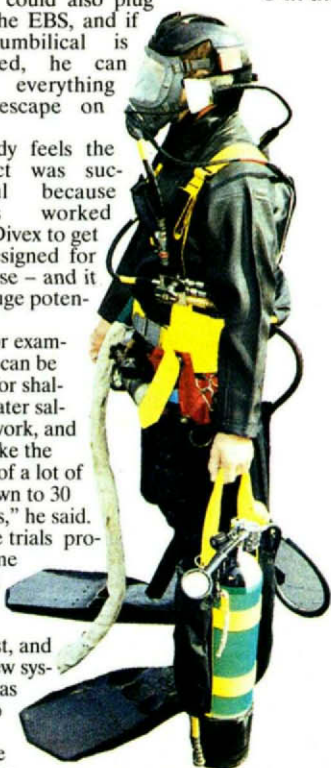
August, and the new system was due to enter service as Navy News went to press.



● In the swim – divers at Faslane.

Picture: PO(PHOT) Jim Gibson.

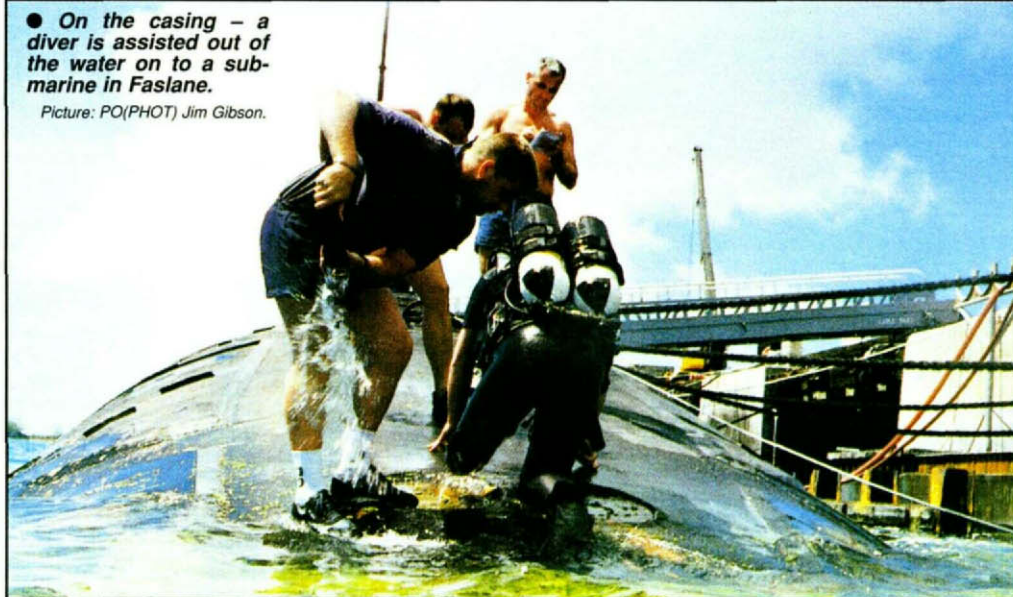
‘It shows people that the diving branch must be taken seriously in this role.’



● Just the thing – the new Royal Navy ESDS.

● On the casing – a diver is assisted out of the water on to a submarine in Faslane.

Picture: PO(PHOT) Jim Gibson.



Video offer

The part played by The Royal Navy both in war and at peace cannot be underestimated. The Royal Navy's place in history is being celebrated by a brand new video release.

Century of Navy is a boxed two hour-long set which is part of a specially commissioned series by WHSmith which also features ‘Century of Army’, ‘Century of RAF’, ‘Century of Sport’ and ‘Century of Golf’. The videos are available in all WHSmiths stores, priced at £19.99.

Century of Navy, narrated by Robert Powell, looks at all the key aspects of the Navy this century, from the all-powerful Dreadnought to the Ark Royals, and features extraordinary archive footage from both World Wars, and all other major confrontations from 1900 to the present day.

This unique record of the Navy is available to Navy News readers at a special price of £18.99 – with free UK postage and packaging.

Century of Navy is made to full broadcast quality and is produced for WHSmith by Green Umbrella.

For details of other titles in the ‘Century Of’ series, please call Green Umbrella on 01483 223022.

To: ‘Century of Navy’ Reader Offer, Green Umbrella, c/o Navy News, Leviathan Block, HMS Nelson, Queen Street, Portsmouth PO1 3HH

Please request Green Umbrella to send me set(s) of the ‘Century of Navy’ video at £18.99 each.

I enclose a crossed cheque/postal order for £ payable to **‘GREEN UMBRELLA’**.

Please add £4.99 for overseas postage. NTSC copies available – please add ‘NTSC’ if required. Please allow up to 21 days for delivery from receipt of order.

Name

Address

Post Code

The offer is subject to availability and Green Umbrella warrants that the price of the video will be refunded if the video is found defective and returned within 14 days of receipt. Proof of postage will not be accepted as proof of delivery of application. Please note, the videos are produced solely by Green Umbrella, Reg. Office, 19 Portland Square, Bristol BS2 8SJ. Any contact regarding applications or videos will be between Green Umbrella and the reader. Navy News will not accept responsibility for applications or videos lost or mislaid in the post.



One Jo

"WELCOME aboard."

Flt Lt John Doidge's greeting to his IV Squadron colleagues as they made their first landings at sea added the next major step forward in the development of Joint Force 2000 – and HMS Illustrious has a part to play.

The ship played host to the Commanders-in-Chief – believed to be the first such gathering at sea for 20 years.

It was a chance for CINCFLEET, Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Squire, and CLAND, Gen Sir Michael Walker, to see the Navy is shaping its carrier force to fit the reality of a flexible RN/RAF air group as envisaged in the 1998 Strategic Defence Review.

The reality of such a group was given impetus by the appearance through a Channel heat of four GR7 ground-attack Harriers which had been loaned from RAF Cottesmore.

Led in by Wg Cdr Ken McCann, the group was completed by Sqn Ldr Sean Perrett, Flt Lt Townsend and Flt Lt Mark Green – made

● Happy landings 1 – an FA2 Sea Harrier of 801 Naval Air Squadron lands on HMS Illustrious during exercises at sea.

Picture: PO(PHOT) Dizzy de Silva (HMS Illustrious).

Recruit for the future

ONE OF the brightest seven-year-olds in the country has already decided his future lies with the Royal Navy.

And to give him a taste of what he might expect, the Navy invited Nirav Gathani for a few hours at sea in HMS Illustrious.

Nirav, from Watford, had already made headlines by becoming the youngest candidate to achieve a GCSE, gaining a grade B in information technology.

And when he was asked on breakfast TV what career he would like, he had no hesitation – he would like to be an RN captain.

So Nirav and his father Rajesh joined the Fleet Flagship just before she sailed from Portsmouth for training in preparation for exercises.

Welcomed on board by her Commanding Officer, Capt Mark Stanhope, Nirav toured the ship and joined the bridge team as she sailed out into the Channel.

At the end of his visit, laden with gifts, he was flown back to shore in the Sea King helicopter which ferried the three Commanders-in-Chief out to the ship.

Rajesh said: "It has been very exciting. We first knew he was coming on board only a week ago."

"Nirav has been looking forward to this more than his trip to Disneyland Paris last weekend."

"We stayed at HMS Dryad, and they prepared him for this by taking him into the Amethyst bridge simulator."

The novice was not overawed by handling the carrier, telling *Navy News* that his visit had been as good as he had hoped it would be.

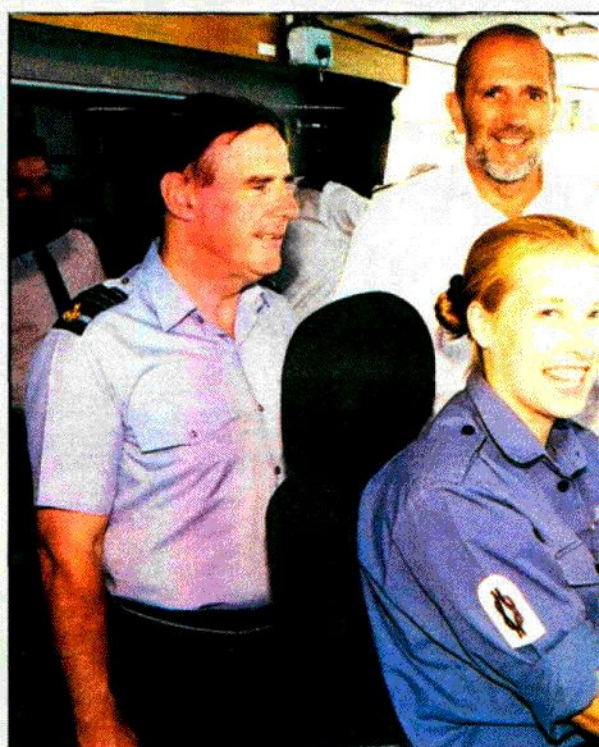
"What I liked best was when I was trying to control the ship," said Nirav.

After the visit he had one more visit to the TV studio to tell all about his big day out – then it was back to reality, and a return to school for the start of a new term.



● High flyer – Nirav Gathani gets the feel of life on board the Fleet Flagship during his visit to HMS Illustrious.

Picture: LA(PHOT) Dave Hunt (FPU).



● Bridge watch – W(S) Nikki Lang at the helm of HMS Illustrious, with Admiral Sir Nigel Essenhigh and General Sir Michael Walker.

Carrier does her new

THERE was nothing but praise for the workers of Fleet Support Ltd (FSL) in Portsmouth following the work done on HMS Illustrious which has made her a worthy platform for Joint Force 2000.

Commander-in-Chief Fleet Admiral Sir Nigel Essenhigh told *Navy News* that the ten-month Extended Dockyard Assisted Maintenance Period (EDAMP) begun last year was a refit in anyone else's book, and that FSL should be congratulated on work of a high standard completed on time.

The most obvious elements of the package were the removal of the Sea Dart system and its replacement with extra 'parking space' for aircraft in front of the ship's island.

This will be of enormous benefit when the carrier operates the Fleet Air Arm's FA2 Sea

Harrier fighter. The new Sea Dart system will allow combinations of different tasks, a premium.

That extra helicopter landing space on HMS Illustrious' ship is currently undergoing

But it is often hidden results of

In place of the Sea Dart system, dedicated to gear, allowing operations against the ship.

One step closer to Joint Force 2000

First-time deck landings on HMS Illustrious by four RAF pilots was evidence that the Joint Force 2000 initiative is back on course, as MIKE GRAY reports.

ing to
s they
a her-
ard in
2000
ivotal

three
to be
years.
Admiral
RIKE,
d CIN-
ow the
he the-
s envis-
view.
et by
haze of
d flown
artet -
Lt Ian
careful

approaches and feather-soft landings, with landing safety officer Flt Lt Doidge offering the odd word of advice as they came in.

One onlooker observed that it would not be long before the RAF pilots were conducting the rather more rapid and robust landings of their Fleet Air Arm counterparts, but their efforts were applauded by the VIP guests, who watched incognito.

"I have been flying Harriers for the past 16 years - some 2,500 flying hours - and not one landing on a ship until today," said Wg Cdr McCann.

"The weather was perfect - we couldn't have asked for more. Calm sea, ten knots of wind - ideal.

"None of the squadron pilots have done any ship work before, so we have started from ground zero, or sea-level if you like, and are working our way up.

"It's different because there is no land anywhere to be seen. It is without a unique experience - and it's really nice to be here in one piece."

With Illustrious having undergone a ten-month work package to prepare her for JF2000 (see story below) the build-up to a true joint force is back on track, having been derailed by HMS Invincible's recent deployments to the Gulf and Kosovo.

But work done by the RAF and RN in the present carriers - working up operating procedures and generally getting to know each other - is only the start, as Admiral Essenhigh acknowledged.

"It's all right to have ideas like that in theory and to put them forward, but they've got to be made to work in practice, and this and similar deployments is the start of what is going to be a long process of bringing the two existing carrier forces closer together in terms of operating techniques, standard operating procedures, and their understanding of each other's problems and style of aviation.

"It's an important step along the way, because the pace of operations over the last 18 months or so has actually prevented us from building on the experience of previous embarkations.

"The importance of this one today is getting us back into a cycle of embarkations which enables the Navy and the RAF to work alongside each other - to get back into this mode of change that we had actually started before but has been interrupted by the Gulf and by Kosovo."

Both Admiral Essenhigh and Air Chief Marshall Squire are convinced of the importance of this joint initiative, and the key steps along the way, including the Sea Harriers' move from Yeovilton to the RAF's Wittering-Cottesmore complex in 2003 and the subsequent replacement of the Naval and RAF Harriers some time after 2012.

Their as-yet theoretical replacement, a multi-role, common machine, to operate from the Navy's new carriers, will complete the process, the result being a balanced and powerful mobile force.

"In terms of what the capability of the force is about, of course, is maritime power projection - about projecting force ashore - and this is the point in which the Army will be very interested; in the arrival of Harriers and their successors in support of their operations," said the admiral.

A single aircraft type in the future will mean that personnel and logistics requirements, currently supporting two apparently similar but in reality very different aircraft, will be slimmer, more flexible and more cost-effective.

There is also a keen awareness of the human dimension of JF2000.

"I think the important point over the next ten years or so is that we have gradually got to bring these two forces together," said the admiral.

"They are sufficiently different at the moment, with different roles, to warrant taking a very careful approach to it.

"We've got to make sure that everything we do over the next ten years is actually on a convergent path, and we need to have achieved that sufficiently far in advance of the next carriers and the new aircraft type coming in so there is no transition problem when these new aircraft arrive.

"This is why we need to take these steps, to be done frequently and carefully, and we've also got to recognise the sensitivities of people involved.

"These pilots landing today and the maintainers on board didn't join the RAF to go to sea - or it's not what they expected to do - and similarly the Fleet Air Arm people here joined because they wanted to go to sea, and not perhaps to work ashore.

"So these people are actually different animals, who are trained and brought up and disciplined to think about problems in a different way, and the important thing in the long-term is actually to preserve those differences.

"They are strengths, not weaknesses. We've got to capitalise on them and find a way of operating these two forces as one, with each having its own strengths from its own Service and background, and retaining those traditions.

"So the aim is not to end up with them all RAF,

or all Navy, or wearing some different uniform and having a common rank structure.

"We accept the fact that there are strengths in being different - it's a matter of how we operate these two forces together, and capitalising on their strengths. We must understand the sensitivities of the individuals along the way."

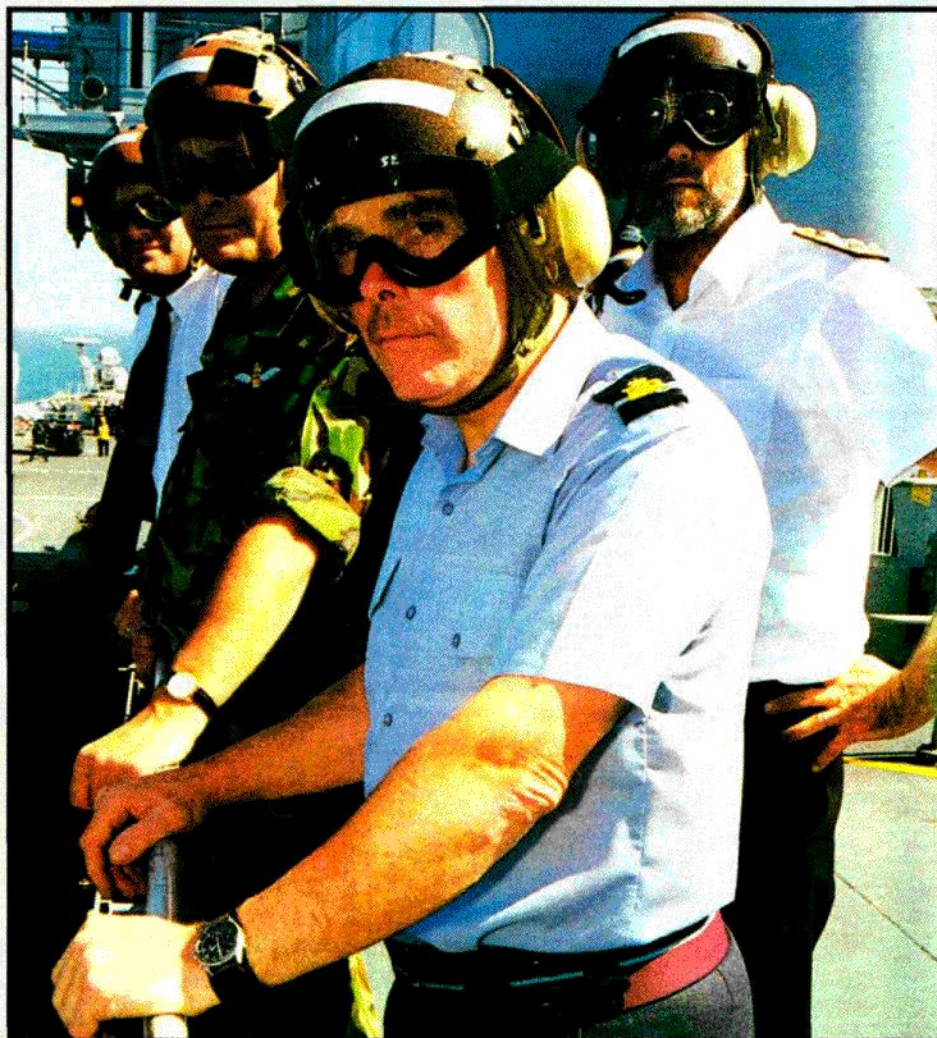
This chimed in with the views of one of the IV Sqn pilots, Flt Lt Paul Crutchlow, who sailed with Illustrious, and was preparing to make his first take-off and landing at sea.

"I'm positive about being at sea - it's a new challenge, although I'm also surprised it has happened; I would have joined the Fleet Air Arm if I had particularly wanted to go to sea," said the RAF's most junior combat-ready Harrier pilot.



Illustrious, watched by Air Chief Marshall Sir Peter Squire, Cdre.

Picture: LA(PHOT) Terry Seward (HMS Illustrious).



● Happy landings 2 - the three Commanders-in-Chief watch as pilots from IV Squadron RAF successfully complete their first deck landings at sea.

Picture: LA(PHOT) Terry Seward (HMS Illustrious).

emonstrates capabilities

er alongside the RAF's GR7 and-attack aircraft, when different of planes may be required for dif- and space to marshal aircraft is at a

space also provides an additional ding spot - known as Zero spot. ister-ship HMS Invincible is cur- ing the same enhancements.

below the flight deck, and den from sight, that other the upgrade are to be found.

ammunition and equipment for system, there are now magazines RAF GR7 weapons and ancillary g the ship to support sustained gnt land targets.

to itself, more than five kilometres

of fibre-optic cable has been installed to support hundreds of PCs, linking the ship to both the NavyStar intranet and the wider Internet, and giving the ship an efficient e-mail system.

Illustrious also has an upgraded electronic navigational chart system, displaying various levels of detail on screen and overlaying it with information of the ship's position and movement from satellite fixes.

The system is at present used in conjunction with traditional paper charts - it was still being 'tweaked' and calibrated as the carrier sailed, and appeared to show Illustrious taking a short-cut out of Portsmouth Harbour through a public house.

As Navy News went to press Illustrious was preparing for NATO exercise Northern Lights and visits to Amsterdam and Barcelona before returning to Portsmouth next month.

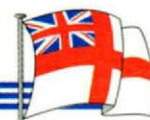
● Happy landings 3 - Lt Luke Morgan, of 820 Naval Air Squadron, carries out test landings on the new Zero landing spot on the flight deck of HMS Illustrious.

Picture: LA(PHOT) Richie Moss (HMS Illustrious).





At Your Leisure



MILITARY histories based on first-hand accounts are generally an easier read than those that dwell endlessly on tactics, losses and gains – and Field Marshal Lord Carver's *The Boer War* for the National Army Museum (Macmillan £25) is a fine example of the genre.

The story of the conflict that broke out 100 years ago this month is told from diaries and letters of those who took part – including those of 17-year-old Midshipman James Menzies, serving with the Naval Brigade's guns, who dutifully wrote to his mother every Sunday:

Jacobsdaal, Orange Free State, Feb 18th 1900.

Dear Mother, You see Jacobsdaal has fallen to us. Cronje is flying from Magersfontein with Kitchener in chase & we are cutting him off . . . I can see you at home writing your Sunday aft. let-

Midshipman's letters from the Boer War

ters with a roaring fire. Can you picture me writing my Sunday aft. letter in camp, a roaring sun overhead?

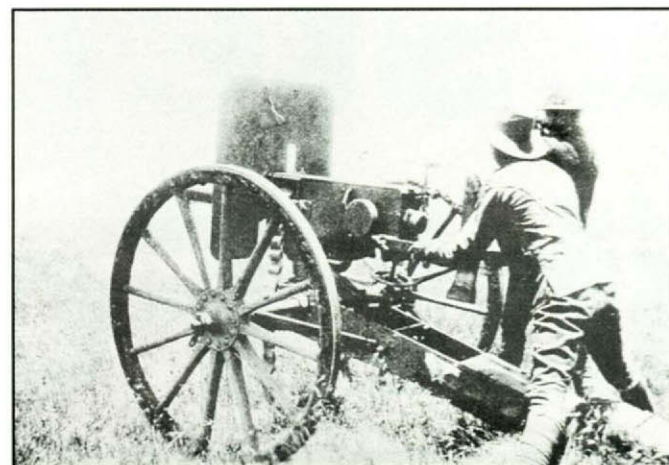
Well, we left Enslin on Tuesday morning last at 4 o'clock with the Canadians, Highland Brigade & Gordons under General Macdonald (Sir Hector). We marched to Ramdam & then to

Waterfall on the Riet River. There we had a sharp engagement whilst crossing. The Naval Brigade had no casualties, though for six hours we were under a hot fire (the six hours passed like five minutes).

Here I must relate a little incident. You have doubtless heard of the 'Pom-Pom', if you have not, it is a Maxim throwing a 1lb burst-

ing shell at the rate of ten per second. Two years ago it was refused by the English government and the Boers bought it. Well ever since the war began everyone was quacking about this "terrible weapon", they attribute the loss of the ten guns at Colenso to it, but it is harmless, absolutely harmless as I will show.

The Boers had two of these guns



● 'HARMLESS, ABSOLUTELY HARMLESS': A pom-pom Maxim gun in action. The explosion from the shells was "no worse than a squib" Mid James Menzies wrote his mother.

in the hills by the Riet River & were using them on us.

I was standing by the Commander near the guns, when four of these shells hit the sand, one after the other, about six inches from my foot. They every one

burst & threw up a little sand but the explosion was no worse than a squib, did no harm at all . . .

Here we are paying 3/6 a bottle for beer, we are awfully badly off, we feed on biscuit & tinned beef nothing else . . . It is very strange being under fire. You can see the enemy's positions plainly always but they are always behind a big rock.

It is a beastly country here. The Boers are quite welcome to it all as far as its value is concerned.

Jacobsdaal is full of the wounded Boers. We are nursing them back to life, it is also crammed with German doctors.

One of the English soldiers was hanged this morning for looting gear out of a house in the town, the troops had all been warned about it & the penalty, as soon as we got here so it was the fellow's own fault.

P.S. Please send a bottle of "Thirst Tabloids" Burroughes & Wellcome.

February 26, 1900

Our troops have surrounded Cronje who has an island & a bit of the northbank . . . The worst of it is that we have to get our water from the river below them & they the dirty beasts throw all their refuse dead cattle and offal in the river which of course comes down to us. Every day we pull out horses & oxen in a state of decay. The water stinks and of course every drop has to be boiled before it can be used for anything.

Sniping is real sport. You get a rifle & a couple of packets of ammunition & grovel on your stomach until about 2,000 yds from the Boer lines. Then you get behind the biggest rock you see, rest your rifle on it & snipe at the enemy, it is rare sport. They sometimes fire back but never do any harm except to the rock . . . I am in perfect health.

□ Midshipman Menzies died of enteric fever the following year.

LOCATED WITHIN THE ROYAL NAVAL MUSEUM HM DOCKYARD

Royal Naval Museum Trading Company Limited

Teddies • Pusser's Rum • Prints
and many more items available
Phone for a free catalogue,
quote ref: RNM2

OPEN 7 DAYS
A WEEK
10AM-5PM



Incorporating the **Bosun's Bookshop**

With over 20 years experience and over 500 titles, we can help you find that new or used book or even a gift with a maritime theme.

We can search for antiquarian and out of print books
FREE book list on request

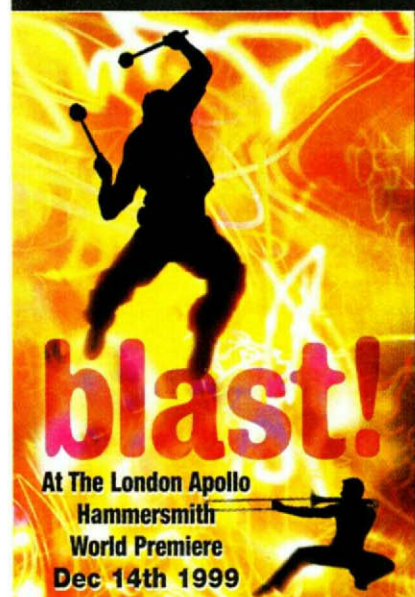
Mail Order Hotline:

Tel: 01705 826682 Fax: 01705 821881

E-Mail: navalmuseum@cix.co.uk

The Royal Naval Museum Trading Company Limited
No.9 Store, HM Naval Base, Main Road, Portsmouth. PO1 3PY
www.royal-naval-museum-trading-company-limited.co.uk

- SPECIAL OFFER -
BEST SEATS USUALLY £28.50 & £23.50
NOW ONLY £19.50 EACH



blast! is an explosion of sound and colour featuring a cast of 70 playing percussion and brass instruments like you've never seen them played before.

Split-second timing, spinning, stick rimshots...and

HUGE BRASS SOUND!!

EXCITING, INNOVATIVE, BREATHTAKING

At The London Apollo
Hammersmith
World Premiere
Dec 14th 1999

Best Seats ONLY £19.50

Offers available all performances

Monday - Thursday (including Thurs Matinee)

December 15th - 23rd Inclusive

(Not available - Friday or Saturday performances)

To book the above offers telephone

0171 416 6075

Credit Card bookings only

Please quote Navy News to receive special price



IN MARKED contrast to the riotous and sexually explicit scenes of sailors carousing painted at the beginning of the 19th century, by 1878 Victorian taste demanded George Green's *Dancing the Hornpipe* be shown as part of a staid and proper social event. From *Jack Tar - A Sailor's Life, 1750-1910* (Antique Collectors' Club £29.50) by J. Welles Henderson and Rodney P. Carlisle.

New angle on the Bismarck

HMS HOOD might have crippled the Bismarck before she had time to deliver the salvo that sank her, had she not mistaken her nemesis for the cruiser Prinz Eugen.

In the initial duel the Germans were amazed to find the Prinz Eugen getting much of the attention they expected to be directed against the world's most powerful battleship.

The reasons why the Hood got it wrong are explored in *The Bismarck Chase* (Chatham £20) by R. J. Winklareth. First, the initial sighting report from HMS Suffolk had placed the Bismarck in the van of the squadron – and the British were unaware that the two ships had changed places during the night due to Bismarck's damaged radar.

Second, although the Bismarck was significantly larger than the Prinz Eugen, when seen at an oblique angle of 35 degrees from the Hood, it was far more difficult to distinguish the differences between the two ships, as demonstrated in these diagrams.

The features that set them apart, such as the configuration of the seaplane catapults, are much more obvious – as are their relative sizes – from the broadside view.

Winklareth concentrates mainly on the May 24 action, but also provides a broad scope of information ranging from the genesis of HMS Hood to the discovery of the Bismarck wreck in 1989. A useful appendix on naval gunnery complements a highly readable stand-alone account that neatly complements the other works written on this endlessly fascinating subject.



Prinz Eugen



Bismarck

● Above: Silhouettes of Bismarck and Prinz Eugen as seen from broadside perspective. Below: the two ships at an angle of 35 degrees as seen from HMS Hood and Prince of Wales.



Prinz Eugen



Bismarck

At Your Leisure



A FLEET FISHING FOR HUSBANDS

THE EAST India Company, first established by Elizabeth I in 1600, eventually held sway over half the world's trade and a quarter of its population. To protect its interests it raised its own army – and navy, which by 1857 had a fleet of 43 warships, sufficiently powerful to go into action anywhere between the Red Sea and China.

Then there was the "Fishing Fleet" – the name applied to the shiploads of young women who sailed to India in search of husbands among those making their fortunes in the Company Service. Courtships would be swiftly conducted; it was reckoned that women had 40 days to secure a match before they lost their fair complexion in the scorching heat of Bombay.

Rowlandson's caricature 'Sale of English Beauties in the East Indies' is taken from The East India Company (HarperCollins £24.99), a sumptuously illustrated history by Antony Wild.

Masters of disguise

IF THE activities of U-boats in World War I were considered underhand by the British, the Germans felt just the same about the Q-ships – well-armed vessels disguised as harmless merchantmen.

U-boats seldom wasted torpedoes on tramp steamers in this period, when the lack of detection systems such as Asdic left them free to work on the surface and sink their targets by gunfire.

Knowing this, the Q-ships would pretend to surrender, make a show of abandoning ship, and then as the U-boat approached, quickly raise the ensign, throw of the covers from their own guns and open fire. And it was all perfectly legal.

It all had to be done quickly, of course, before the U-boat had the chance to dive, and the drill and ingenuity – and cool courage – of the Q-ship operatives were exemplary.

There are a few dark corners in Tony Bridgland's history *Sea Killers in Disguise* (as with the still unresolved matter of the Baralong, which after sinking U-27 by the means described above is alleged to have obeyed orders from an Admiralty bent on avenging the Lusitania to "take no prisoners").

But this lethal game seems to have been played with a remarkable degree of chivalry and good humour by both sides.

The disguises adopted were remarkably sophisticated – the trawler Oyama even went to sea posing as a crashed Zeppelin! It appears the Germans were not fooled by this, because she met with no success and was withdrawn after three months.

As the author observes, it is a shame no photographs or drawings survive of the contraption, apparently constructed of acres of material stretched over a huge framework of gas piping.

Also told here are the stories of

the German raiders, such as the Mowe and the Seeadler, which enjoyed phenomenal success as they roamed the oceans on marathon pilgrimages of destruction, frantically hunted by packs of Allied cruisers.

Their achievements are among the most remarkable in the annals of naval warfare.

ADMIRALTY SHIPS BADGES ORIGINAL PATTERNS 1919-1994 now with addendum 1995-1998

A two-volume work in hardback with 8-page addendum. Full colour printing of over 1720 approved Pattern badges for H.M. Ships, Shore Establishments and R.F.A.'s together with a brief text for every badge, full index and glossary of heraldic terms. £54 inc. p.p. UK. Available from maritime bookshops or from:

STONE FRIGATE
17, Allington Drive, Strood, Kent.
ME2 3SR
Tel. 01634-711167 for further information

New Photo's from Old!

Scratched * Ripped * Faded

Using a computerised process, we can invisibly repair your cherished photographs without damaging your original image.

Repairs from: £19.99

Enlargements from: £6.00

Quantum Imaging

freepost TW2077 (no stamp req)

PO Box 84, Egham, Surrey, TW20 8JR

TEL: 01784 430607

HP BOOKFINDERS: Established professional service locating out of print titles on all subjects. No obligation or SAE required. Contact: 22, Fords Close, Bledlow Ridge, Buckinghamshire. HP14 4AP. Tel: (01494) 481118 Fax: (01494) 481121. martin@hp-bookfinders.co.uk

BOOKFINDING SERVICE.

Out-of-Print titles. Naval and maritime and war books, and all other subjects. Details from: Barlow Moor Books, 29 Churchwood Road, Didsbury, Manchester M20 6TZ.

Telephone: 0161 434 5073
Fax: 0161 448 2491

HAVE YOU WRITTEN YOUR MEMOIRS?

We publish fine editions of
**MEMOIRS - LETTERS
HISTORIES - BIOGRAPHIES
DIARIES - FAMILY HISTORIES**

and can arrange the complete publication of your book.

Write to: The Memoir Club,
Suite 11742(N), 72 New Bond Street,
London, W1Y 9DD

GET YOUR BOOK PUBLISHED

Have you or your family a story you wish to share? Let BDP produce it. Our specialist publishing service will ensure the highest professional standards. Contact us for further information or send us your manuscript.
Bernard Durnford Publishing
The Old Museum, Bramber, West Sussex, BN44 3WE, United Kingdom
Tel: 01903 816677 Fax: 01903 816655

To reach a huge reading audience...
Advertise here! Ring Debbie Stirman
on 01705 725062

PUBLISH YOUR BOOK

With
The Pentland Press
Edinburgh Cambridge Durham USA
Established publisher welcomes books in all subjects.

Write for details or send your manuscript to:
**Pentland Press (NN), 1 Hutton Close,
South Church, Durham DL14 6XG**
Tel: 01388 776555 Fax: 01388 776766

ScreenScene

— by Bob Baker

Brosnan's Crown doesn't dawdle

NOW here comes, there goes young Steve McQueen, playing polo in split-screen CinemaScope: about 500 postage stamp-sized images of the handsome star smacking the ball home, while on the soundtrack someone sounding vaguely Cockney bumbles on about "The Windmills of Your Mind".

The style was as meaningless as the song's title, and everyone concerned was far too pleased with themselves. "But," as Andy Warhol said, "the people were beautiful" and the movie – *The Thomas Crown Affair* of 1968 – instantly became part of the iconography of its time.

Thirty years on, the picture adds up to a comprehensive charge sheet for a whole decade: the smugness, the frivolousness, the babyish amorality. Clearly the time was ripe for a remake, and star/producer Pierce Brosnan has duly come up with one.

The 1999 *Thomas Crown* is still given to conspicuous consumption, but apart from a spot of gliding, doesn't require the audience to spectate at it. His style is still laid-back and effortless, but there seems to be a core of humanity in Brosnan, whereas McQueen was pure comic strip fantasy.

It's significant that while the 1968 *Crown* was a mere bank robber, his reincarnation is an art thief – a criminal, but enthusiastic and a connoisseur with it. Not unexpectedly, the biggest alteration concerns the heroine, an insurance investigator whose interest in *Thomas Crown* becomes personal

as well as professional. Instead of the impossibly beautiful Faye Dunaway, we now have 90s-woman Rene Russo – down-to-earth, super-efficient, physically dominating. As though to emphasise the passing of the years, the film rather cruelly accommodates Faye Dunaway herself in a cameo role, her face a disastrously unconvincing denial of the aging process. You can't imagine Rene Russo ending up like that.

As a piece of story-telling, the new version is far superior. Director John McTiernan has already given us such action-based standards as *Predator* and *Die Hard*, so he was hardly likely to indulge in the doodling and dawdling of Mark 1. It's interesting to speculate how it will all seem in 2030. Could there be room then for a third *Crown*, and a fourth, on and on, every 30 years until the crack of doom?

Fans of the cartoon series *South Park* now have a big-screen edition, sub-titled "Bigger, Longer and Uncut" (well, tee-hee). The characters still seem to be made out of bright chunks of Lego, poor Kenny undergoes his ritual horrible death and Saddam Hussein once more guest stars.

The main thing to say, for anyone not familiar with this, is that like *Beavis and Butt-Head*, its about

children, but emphatically not for children. Even more than the TV original, it's bound and determined to be scandalous, ironic and not to have a good word to say for anything. Oh, but it is funny. It's slightly deplorable, no doubt, but you can't not laugh.

This Month's Book Bargains

CONVOY - Drama in Arctic waters

Was £20.45 Now £9.95

DONITZ AND THE WOLF PACKS

Was £20.45 Now £9.95

THE ROYAL NAVY IN WORLD WAR II

Was £21.45 Now £9.95

TYPE VII U-BOATS (Stern)

Was £20.45 Now £7.50

THE ROYAL NAVY - An Illustrated Social History

Was £21.99 Now £10.95

ALL OUR PRICES INCLUDE UK & BFPO POSTAGE OVERSEAS ADD 10%

Write/phone for our latest catalogue

MARITIME BOOKS

Lodge Hill, Liskeard PL14 4EL

Tel: 01579 343663 Fax: 346747

NAVAL-MARITIME BOOKS

Our free monthly catalogues always offer an interesting and non-repetitive selection from our large stock of secondhand books on all aspects of Naval, Mercantile & Seafaring Activities.

GERALD LEE MARITIME BOOKS

PO Box 7 St Leonards-on-Sea,

East Sussex. TN38 8WX

Tel/Fax: 01424 853006

NAVAL AND MARITIME BOOKS BOUGHT AND SOLD

LARGE STOCKS - MONTHLY CATALOGUES

SHOP OPEN 10-4 (SATURDAY 10-1)

SEND FOR FREE CATALOGUE

Frank Smith Maritime Books,

98/100 Heaton Road, Newcastle

Upon Tyne, NE6 5HL

Telephone: 0191 265 6333

"HMS. GANGES (The final farewell)

. . . video. Ideal birthday /surprise

present. Documentary includes all

aspects of GANGES before

demolition. One tear-jerking hour of

nostalgia, produced by JOHN

DOUGLAS author H.M.S. GANGES

(Roll on my dozen!) & H.M.S

GANGES (Tales of the T.R.O.G.'S.)

S.A.E. details Douglas Hse, Penmarth

Redruth, Cornwall TR16 6NX



THREE ARK ROYALS 1938-1999

This is the first, and only, book to tell the full stories of the last three *Ark Royals* in detail. The wartime *Ark*, the *Ark* of the 1950s, 60s and 70s, and the present aircraft carrier which will see the FAA into the 21st century. Foreword by Rear-Admiral Terry Loughran, the last operational CO of the present *Ark*. 165 photographs, including 15 in colour. Hardback with full colour laminated dust jacket. Price £23 plus p&p

ISBN 1 901225 02 X

Also Still Available:

HMS CENTAUR 1943-1972 (Hardback) £16.95 plus p&p

HMS VICTORIOUS 1937-1969 (Hardback) £21 plus p&p

Please add £2.00 p&p UK & EU (£4.00 overseas airmail). Payment by sterling cheque, postal order, or by VISA/MASTERCARD. Telephone/Fax orders welcomed. From FAN PUBLICATIONS, 17 Wymans Lane, Cheltenham, Glos GL51 9QA. Tel/Fax 01242 580290, or order from good bookshops. Allow 21 days for delivery.



The GANG PLANK Club

HALLOWEEN SPECIAL

CHAT PAD

The postman nearly fell over board with the weight of all your letters this month!

We really liked Paul Kitching's story about scaring a seagull with his stomp rocket. Michael Gray looked good in his pirate outfit, and he's got amazing handwriting for 4 1/2 we think Mummy must have helped! Hope you had a good time in Godshall, Kaylea Dunn. Lewis Whitmill sounds like he's having a smashing holiday.

Thanks for your jokes Samantha Meetch, your colouring is very good. Thomas Martin, Matthew Vanns and Robert Myers all had a great time at the Royal Tournament, yes Captain Plank and Jack both thought it was a very sad night when it ended.

Charlotte and Andrew Nevitt sound like they are having fun with eggs at school! Sorry Hannah, Technocat couldn't take a picture of the Eclipse because he didn't have a special camera. Hi Veronica, have you thought of a name for our parrot yet. Glad you enjoyed your day at Culdrose Adam, lucky you, sitting in a Merlin Helicopter. Have fun with the Sea Cadets Brent.

AHOY THERE ye landlubbers! It's a strange old time of year. Those 'ere nights are getting darker and me crew tell me that the last day of October is a pretty peculiar night with all of ye dressing up as witches, ghosts and ghouls and walking the streets.

We don't like them there ghosts on board ship. Have any of ye heard of that ghost ship the Marie Celeste? It was found drifting with nobody on board and it fair makes my timbers shiver! I hope ye enjoy your fun. Don't forget to read me crew Jack's words on how to be safe at Halloween.



GANGPLANK MEMBERS

Brilliant Prizes to be Won From Child's Play®

Colour in 'Winifred Witch' and make her ready for a 'Halloween Ball' and you could win one of several lovely prizes!!



Send your completed entry form to: GangPlank Club, Navy News, HMS Nelson, Queen Street, Portsmouth PO1 3HH

Name Age Mem. No.
Address

Closing date for competition 31st October 1999

The Judges decision is final. Relatives and employees of Navy News are ineligible.

Chessington offer

CHESSINGTON World of Adventures invites you to write in for a special ticket offer. Buy one adult ticket for £19 and get another free, saving £19!

Simply send us your name and address and we will send you a voucher which is valid until October 29.

Don't forget your sunflower pictures! There's a cool prize for the tallest sunflower. Captain Plank's sunflower has reached six feet tall. Can you beat that?

Spooky origins of Halloween

Do you know how Halloween came about? Well, Technocat has been "pawing" through his books and has come up with the answer...

Hallow was once the word used for Saint so Halloween is short for All Hallows Even, the evening before All Saints' Day.

But there's more to this spooky night. Before Christianity came to this country there were all sorts of other religions and cults. The Druids thought of October 31 as the eve of Samhain, their New Year. They believed that it was also the festival of the dead and that the spirits of the dead visited at this time of the year.

When Christianity came, the festival of All Saint's was celebrated and that's how October 31 got its name, but many of the old Druid customs still remain even today.

Bobbing for apples probably comes from the Druid tradition of eating Autumn fruits during the New Year and the faces of demons are still created by cutting holes in pumpkins.

Technocat is still not sure how trick or treat came about so he's off to surf the web for some ghostly sites!

They are:
<http://www.benjerry.com/halloween> &
<http://www.billybear4kids.com/holidays/halloween>.



Creepy clothes to make your friends frightened!

Susie thinks it's really great fun to dress up at Halloween and she is getting all the costumes ready for the Halloween party on board the ship.

Here are some of her ideas for you to try (Don't forget to ask an Adult before you use any of their clothes or materials):

SPIDER: Dress in black, the best is a black leotard and tights. Then get some old stockings or tights, black is best but other dark colours will do. Stuff the stockings or tights with soft material, perhaps other old tights. Then pin the stocking legs onto the waist of the leotard, if you have a black tie or belt you can pin them onto that first.

To finish off the outfit use either a piece of stocking or a dark coloured swimming cap on your head and stick black pipe cleaners on to

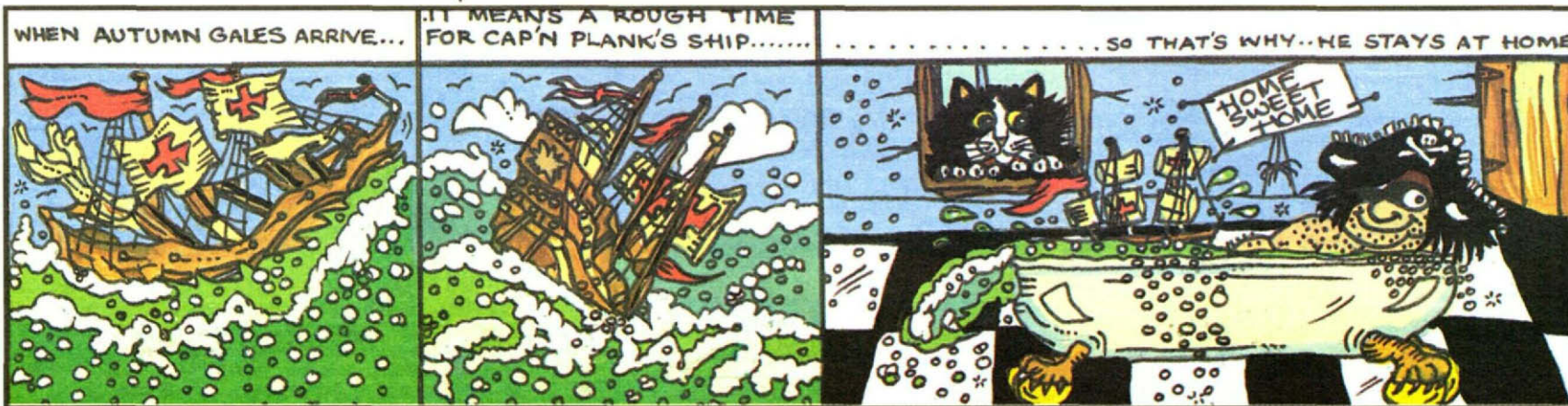


look like antennae.

THE MUMMY: Ask an adult for an old white sheet. Tear it into strips about 30 cms wide. Wear light coloured clothing underneath, the best is a white T-shirt and shorts. Then wrap the strips of sheet around you. You can fasten it with sticky tape or even better strips of plaster if you are allowed to use it. Slick your hair back with gel and use white make-up or flour to make your face look pale and ghostly!

ALIEN ROBOT: Use a large cardboard box. Cut holes out for your arms and legs. Stick on silver foil dishes and plates to make it look like a working robot.

Decorate it in the best ghastly colours, purple and green together are good "out of this world" colours. A smaller decorated box perched on top of your head completes the robot look.



October birthdays

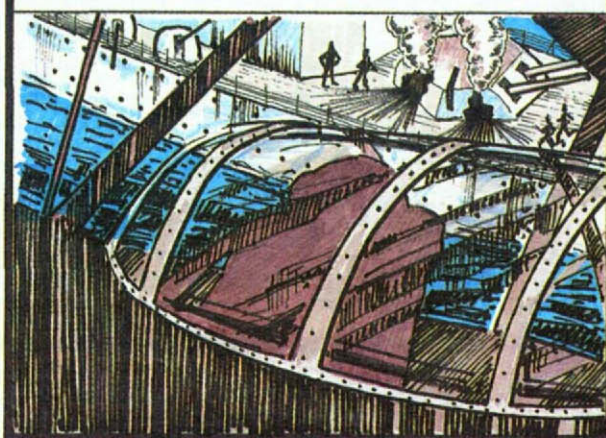


THESE GANG PLANK Club members all have birthdays in October: John Prosser, Callum Mackay, Christopher Moore, Hayley O'Grady, Daniel Whalley, Stephanie O'Connor, Jennie Elliott, David Kiriakidis, Thomas Booth, Keith Wells, Thomas Seal, Ruari Box, Ian Downing, Tony Ashfield, Matthew Drew, Jeannie Campbell, Joseph Manning, Lawrence Newport, Georgina Miller, Hannah Farwell, Harriet Van Der Vilet, Clark Simmon, Jason Drewery, Joshua Burnham, Jenna Lucey, Tom Harrison, William Britton, Helen Bailey, Megan Cox, James Anderson, Rebecca King, Hannah Hartland, James Price, Zoe Smith, Michael Carr, Kirsty McPherson, Richard Connelly, Michelle Gruvic, Adebambo Salawu, Rebecca Jones, Jeremy Stone, Rachel Clay, Madeleine Oaten, Charlotte Squires, Karlene Ball, Gareth Blakemore, Dren Avison, Andrew Nevitt, Adam Wilson, Daniel Bacon, Myles Bumble, Shaun Nobes, John Dalby, Mark Hudson, Genevieve Brown, Chris Mayhew-Badley, Victoria Meadwell, Rochelle Ferguson, Charlene Hughes, Shaun Williams, Gareth O'Neill, Gregory Connolly, Scot Blandford, Jack Somers, Charles Stewart, Laurence Holdway, Kristin Dixon, Grier Lindsay, Suzanne Archer, Aaron Green, Christopher Phelps, Abigail Reed, Michael Stobbs, Chantelle Lewis, Kevin Woodall, Keith Appleby, James Appleby, Bernadette Roberts, Kelly Forster, Christopher Bethal, Michael Hogan, Daniel Butcher, Thomas Moroney, Lisa Mooper, James Garrity, Eden Platts, Owen Vesey, Alexander Nelson, Justin Davis, Liam Evason, Jason Saunders, Joseph Head, Lawrence Luff, Natalie Kershaw, Sophie Lewis, Matthew Whitman, Daniel Goodall, Richard Butler, John Ward-Nicholson, Andrew Fowler, Natasha Barker, Christopher Barnes, Michael Burford, Joanne Wood, Owen Bonini, Scott Patrick, Heather Batten, Michael Carr, Penelope Hughes, Vickie Rider, Nigel Miller, Lauren Newman, Georgina Newman, Jordan Tyrer, Chloe Clarke, James Bayes, Liam Kilby, Christopher Peters, Elliott Peters, Liam Mourby, James Roberts, Vicky Roberts, Thomas Woodman, Helen Gent, James Harding, Eleanor Nichol, Joseph Hopkins, Lindsey Ranson, Rebecca Swarbrick, Karl Welsh, Mark Frost, Gabriel Bailey and Kirsty Thorpe

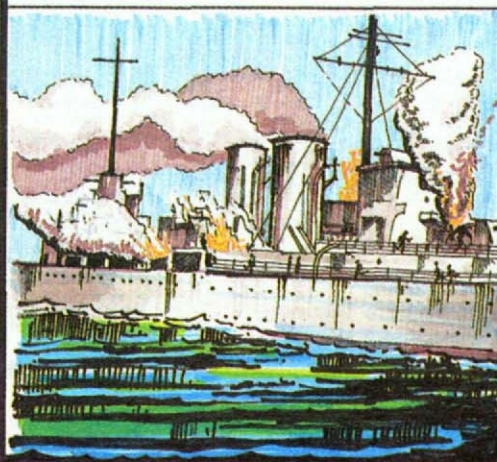
HMS Exeter has been terribly damaged by the Graf Spee's 11-inch and six-inch guns – but Commodore Harwood's cruisers refuse to give in to the German battleship's superior fire-power:

BATTLE OF THE RIVER PLATE

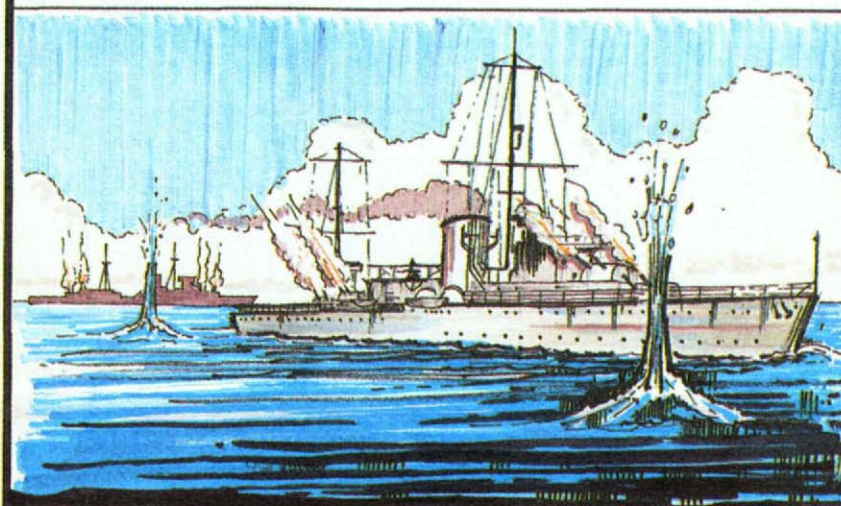
FLYING ABOVE **GRAF SPEE** IN **AJAX**'S TINY SEAFOX AIRCRAFT IS LT. E.D.G. LEWIN. THOUGH ROCKED BY THE GERMAN'S ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE, HE TRANSMITS INFORMATION ON THE FALL OF THE RN SHIPS' SHELLS. LEWIN IS LATER AWARDED THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS



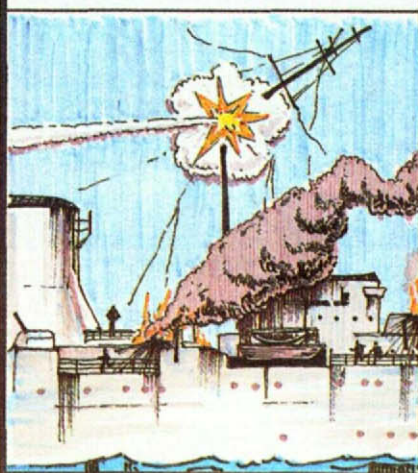
AT 0730, VIRTUALLY A HELPLESS WRECK WITH ALL HER GUNS OUT OF ACTION, **EXETER** TURNS AWAY FROM THE BATTLE AND HEADS SOUTH FOR PORT STANLEY IN THE FALKLANDS – 1,200 MILES AWAY



MEANWHILE **AJAX** AND **ACHILLES** CONTINUE TO FIRE ON **GRAF SPEE**'S PORT FLANK. HER RANGE AND FIRING APPARATUS IS DAMAGED, AFFECTING HER OWN GUNS' ACCURACY



BUT STILL **GRAF SPEE** MANAGES TO PUT FOUR OF **AJAX**'S GUNS OUT OF ACTION AND BRINGS DOWN HER TOP MAST



AND **ACHILLES**' OWN DIRECTOR TOWER IS HIT, KILLING THREE AND WOUNDING TWO MORE



BELOW DECKS IN **GRAF SPEE**, LISTENING TO THE BATTLE RAGING ABOVE, ARE 62 PRISONERS FROM THE MERCHANT SHIPS SUNK BY THE POCKET BATTLESHIP



HARWOOD DECIDES TO BREAK OFF THE ACTION UNTIL NIGHTFALL, TO SAVE HIS AMMUNITION – BUT THEN **GRAF SPEE** THROWS UP A SMOKE SCREEN



● To be continued

JOLLY JOKES

What did the sardine call the submarine?
A can of people.

What do you get if you pour hot water down a rabbit hole?
Hot cross bunnies.

What do ants use for hula hoops?
"Cheerios".

What's a vampire's favourite sport?
Batminton.

What's a frog's favourite flower?
A croakus.

What's a frog's favourite seat?
A toadstool.

Why did the lazy little girl buy a big dog?
So she wouldn't have to bend down to pet it.

What is a stupid flower called?
A blooming idiot.

Thanks to Lewis Whitmill, Catherine and Hannah Hartland and Lee Buckley for these jokes. Keep 'em coming, Gang!

TRICK OR TREATING?

Have fun, but be safe – Jack's Top Halloween Safety Tips:

● Never go Trick or Treating on your own.

● If you are going out in a group of children, tell an adult where you are going and what time you will be back. A good idea is to draw two maps of where you are going and leave one with the adult.

● Never go into a stranger's house.

● Don't eat any treats or sweets which are unwrapped. The best thing to do is to eat before you go out and then save your treats until after an adult has checked them for you.

● Don't go to houses where you know there are elderly people or very young children. They will not want to be disturbed.

● Don't play tricks on unsuspecting people or play tricks which may damage property.

● Remember road safety, keep to the pavements and

don't run across roads.

● If you are wearing a costume, make sure you can see properly through any mask and that you will not trip up when you walk.

First Day Back

– by Ben Youngs (10)

First day back at school,
Children clean and neat.
New coats hang on coatpegs
New shoes shine on feet.

School hall smells of polish,
Toilets smell of soap.
Children meet new teachers,
Faces full of hope.

Teachers give new books out,
Children start new page.
Up the curtain rises
On the same old stage.



Jack's Book Corner

Here's a couple more books Jack has enjoyed reading lately:

Puzzle Island – Paul Adshad If you liked looking for Capt Plank's treasure in our Summer Supplement map you will love this one. Published by Child's Play at £3.99.
The Deep Blue Sea – Jakki Wood An ocean adventure with lots of useful facts. Published by Frances Lincoln Publishers at £9.99.



Please enroll me as a member of The Gang Plank Club.
I enclose a PO/cheque (payable to Navy News) for £3.25

Name

Address

Postcode

D.O.B. Tel No

Joined by: Parent ☐ Grandparent ☐ Other ☐

Do you have any: Brothers ☐ Sisters ☐ Ages ☐

Special Interests: Sport ☐ Music ☐ Film/TV ☐

Friends ☐ Reading ☐

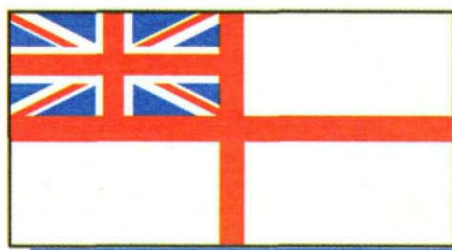
Join the Gang Plank Club and receive a fabulous Goody Bag!

Send your completed form, together with a postal order/cheque for £3.25 to:

The Gang Plank Club
Navy News, HMS Nelson,
Portsmouth PO1 3HH

If you would like any further information before applying, call 01705 733558 or 01705 826040 (24 hr Answerphone)

We will also accept payment by:- Visa, Delta, Access, Mastercard or Switch on orders of £5.00 or more



The White Ensign Association

Your Naval Charity providing free, friendly, unbiased help on finance, personal matters and employment

The 'GangPlank Club' is sponsored by The Gosling Foundation

At Your Service

Over to You

Sir Frederick George Denham Bedford: The Supreme Court of Western Australia is researching the court's history, in particular its opening in 1906. Relatives and descendants of Sir Frederick are asked to contact The Hon David K. Malcolm AC, Chief Justice of Western Australia, Supreme Court of Western Australia, Barrack Street, Perth, Western Australia, 6000, fax 00 61 8 9221 3833.

HMS Sikh and HMS Zulu: Lost in the Med Sept 14, 1942: HMS Leda sunk by U703 off Bear Island Sept 20, 1942, or HMS Aurora Oct 1944. Were you any of these ships at these times? Contact Jim Burnhams, 12 Butts Close, Otter Vale, Honiton EX14 8FS. 01404 47592.

Oulstreham, Sword Beach D-Day: What was the destroyer which rescued survivors of the torpedoed LCT carrying wounded soldiers and German POWs? Contact R. Mayor, Flat 3, Ironways, Croft Orchard, Ipplepen, Devon TQ12 5RA. Tel 01803 837670.

HMS Royal Oak survivors telegram Oct 14, 1939, to say Comd. Gunner Pearce is safe; Med Fleet sports medal 1930; Cruiser Arbutnot Trophy medal 1934; three pre-war HMS Coventry sports medals, all obtained at auction, will exchange for issues of Shotley HMS Ganges magazine. Vic. 0121 779 3525, e-mail: hocking@hocking61.freeserve.co.uk

Submarine HMS Dreadnought: Vincent Emmerson seeks a photo of the Wardroom spirit rose bowl with a Rolls-Royce, Spirit of Ecstasy as centrepiece. The bowl was a commissioning present. Call 01785 812764.

LSI Empire Lance: Can any of the ship's company or 540 LCA Flotilla members remember movements prior to embarkation of troops at Southampton, March to May 1944, ready for D-Day. Contact John Hampton, 879 Dorchester Rd, Upwey, Weymouth DT3 5JL.

11th Landing Barge (Vehicle) Flotilla: Matthew McCoy seeks info about this unit's activities during WWII. Contact Matthew on 01841 540108 or write to 7, Spitfire Row, Saint Eval, Wadebridge PL27 7TF.

HMS Cardiff, PO's Mess, Presentation Shirts: Prior to the ship entering refit, the shirts were left with a rugby club in the Cardiff area for safekeeping. If you know where the shirts are, contact Dave Prichard, 198, Ridgeway Rd, Rumney, Cardiff CF3 9AG, tel 01222 790233.

HMS Doncaster - Cyprus/Malta 1955-57: In August 1957, Nan Marsden lost a friend, AB Victor Harper, in a road accident in Scunthorpe. She has lost photos and letters from him, and seeks replacement photos. Contact Nan at 19, Summerfield Road, Chesterfield S40 2LJ.

Plymouth air raid deaths: Tony Dean has been researching the civilians who died in air raids during WWII and seeks info about service personnel who also died. Contact Tony at 23 Walsdale Gdns, Estover, Plymouth, PL6 8TN.

John Henry Pyne: Served in Royal Marines 1915-45, mainly Plymouth, also Orkney Islands. In 1945 he became NSPCC Inspector for Oswestry until his death in 1947. His grandson seeks any recollections about him. Contact Neil Hitt, 7 Ashby Close, Moreton, Wirral CH46 6FR, tel 0151 677 9438.

Commodore James Whaley McClelland: served WWII ships Arctura, Wave, Excellent. Info required by family history researcher G.R. Harris, Glenholme, The Street, Hempstead by Holt NR25 6TL, tel: 01263 711228, e-mail: Harris.Hempstead@CWCom.net

Capt Cedric Naylor: Originally from Fulwood area of Preston; married to Lillian; brother Brindley. Served on Q ships in WWI. Any info on him, his wife, brother or family members, contact Frank G. Dorber, Wyvern, Morannedd, Criccieth, Gwynedd, LL52 0PP.

HMS Solebay: B. Jeffery is building a model of the ship circa 1957-58, and wants to borrow photos (upper deck, profile) for more detail. Contact him at 12 Oaklands Grove, Waterlooville PO8 8PS, tel 023 9225 1612.

D-Day Sailing Orders: Has any Army or RN officer a copy of the good luck message slipped into Sailing Orders by Wrens? It was not revealed in the Daily Sketch in the 1950s. Info to Mrs J. Hamilton, 13, Totnam Lodge, Richmond Rd, Wimbledon SW20 0PF.

War Cemetery, Ramley: D. Scrivener will be visiting his brother's grave at Ramley, Israel. He was lost from HMS St Brides Bay in 1947. If anyone wants photos of relatives' graves, contact D. Scrivener, 70 Beach Rd, Fleetwood FY7 8PN, tel 01253 873807.

Capt Shadwell, Commander HMS Maidstone, 8th Submarine Flotilla, 1942-7. Any info as to his whereabouts to George Caspeid, 17 Birtwistle Ave, Colme, Lancs BB8 9RS.

Paul Ryan, CPO HMS Excellent 1933, married Florence (Sheila) Hopkin, Portsmouth Register Office. Served at Sanderling, Tamar, Sydney, Albatross and Landrail 1946-52, retiring from Seahawk in 1955 or 56. Paul and wife are dead but P. Boon seeks a photo of either or both. Ring 01705 663702.

Bismarck: Chris Kelm is building a model of the ship but can't find data on the size of the keel blocks or technical info, such as the size of cranes and the colour chips that they used for the ship. Contact Chris at 6301 S. Perrypark Blvd, Unit 11, Lakspur, Colorado, 80116, USA.

HMS Mounts Bay, Warri, 1957: On leaving the town, the ship ran aground on mud and the crew were ordered to the quarterdeck and told to jump up and down. Does anyone remember the incident? Contact G. Murray, 84, Green Rd, Stubbington, Fareham PO14 2HB.

HMS Comet: A model of the ship, made mainly from matchboxes, and other memorabilia was stolen when HMS Cavalier was on Tyneside in 1995. If anyone knows where the items are, contact A. Davies, Curtiss Cottage, South Kilvington, Thirsk YO7 2NL, or return them to a police station quoting this address.

HMS Norfolk, WWII: D. Stuart White's father Tothie, during less hectic moments of North Atlantic convoy duties, secured much photographic material, some of which he supplied to Fridor Eydal, an Icelandic military historian. Mr White's father is willing to lend the book to interested persons - but it is written in Icelandic. Contact D. Stuart White, Lamont House, Whiteley Lane, Fareham PO15 7RW.

HMS Exmouth: Having started to build a model from plans (prior to modification to gas turbine), P. Nash would like to borrow close-up photos of this or any Blackwood-class frigate, particularly of the superstructure. The ship's history would also be helpful. Photos would be returned and postage covered. Contact P. Nash at 9, Grasmere Rd, Whitby, Ellesmere Port L65 9BP, tel: 0151 355 1540.

Type 15 class frigates: Ken Brown is researching these ships, and would like any info or memories of events and incidents, humorous or not, and quirks of the class, before and after conversion. Items may be published, so if you don't want to see it in print, don't send it. Names will be excluded if offence is likely to be caused. Contact Ken Brown, 8 Fay Close, Stubbington, Fareham PO14 2RS.

Naval Rum Pump: In 1971, Clive Morris purchased from Royal William Yard a spirit pump and would like it valued. He would welcome any advice. Contact Clive at 237, Siesta Avenue, Thousand Oaks, California, 91260, USA, tel: 00 1 805 496 5771.

HMS Encounter, lost in the Sunda Strait, March 1, 1942. Were you serving in her during this action? If so, contact Jim Burnhams,

12 Butts Close, Otter Vale, Honiton EX14 8FS, tel 01404 47592.

Minesweeper HMT Rolls Royce: Seeking info on this vessel, particularly from any former ship's company. Contact Graham Bebbington, 27 Trentley Rd, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8PH, tel: 01782 659587.

George (Monkey Nuts) Johnston, AB HMS Eclipse: David Johnston, George's son, seeks info on the sinking of Eclipse, his father's service and shipmates aboard her. Replies to Bob Christie, 3, Blinkbonny Cotts, Pittenweem, Fife KY10 2RP.

HMS Concord, 1916-1934: Info on SPO A. Spurrell, K471, awarded LSGC Medal whilst aboard, sought by HMS Concord Association archivist M. Paske, 38, Caernarvon Ave, Winsford CW7 1NX.

HMS Gipsy and Rodney: Pam Nelson's father, Edwin (Ted or Taff) Clarke, served in these ships. He has died, but she has items possibly of interest to collectors, including costumes and photos of the Gipsy Harmonica Band, and regarding Rodney, a lady's compact, necklace and brooch. Contact Mrs Nelson at Whiteloor House, 53 Canongate, Edinburgh EH8 8BS, tel: 0131 556 6827.

HMS Voltaire, sunk April 4, 1941: Wendy Clarke, whose uncle, PO(Reg) Harry Brown was on board, wants to hear from any ship's company or relatives who have photos or documents from her final voyage. Contact Wendy at Hill Cot, 30, Bedhampton Hill, Bedhampton, Havant PO9 3JW, tel: 01705 649975.

HMS Hood website has a great deal of info on HMS Hood. Editor Frank Allen would welcome memorabilia and anecdotes from ex-ship's company and families. Address is <http://www.geocities.com/soho/workshop/2966/>

FAA Airman: Elizabeth Hunt Christiansen seeks info on the whereabouts of ex-FAA airman Pilot James Alexander Gardner and Radio Operator Alan Todd, who took part in attacking German cruiser Königsberg on April 12, 1940. Contact Elizabeth at Skeppertien 7 B, 1367 Snaroya, Norway.

Avon Vale & Parramatta: Harold Moss RAN, a survivor from Parramatta and the last to be pulled from the Carly rail and carried up the scrambling net by a sailor from Avon Vale. He would like to find his rescuer. Write to 1/1 Teraplin Place, Ballina, NSW, 2478, Australia.

HMS Aldenham: Andrea Mors, a diver from Trieste, has located the wreck of the Aldenham, sunk in the Adriatic in 1944. He would like to contact survivors, and to contact veterans from Avon Vale and Wheatland, which fought off Pag Island in Nov 1944. Write to Via Rossetti, 23, 34125, Trieste, Italy.

Reunions

The Destroyer Club is made up of Destroyer COs. Any former COs who have not been caught by official lists are invited to contact Cdr Andrew Moll at DNO AAW, Room 5357, MOD Main Building, London SW1A 2HB.

October

HMS Westcott reunion, Blackpool, Oct 11-15. Enquiries to C. Fairweather, Stable Cottage, West Bergholt, Colchester CO6 3JQ, tel: 01206 240614.

Russian Convoy Club (Bridlington) Sods Opera and get-together at Royal British Legion, Hilderthorpe Rd, Bridlington, Oct 13 at noon. Shipmates, wives and friends welcome. Details: E. Harbour, 43 Trentham Drive, Bridlington YO16 6ES.

Exeter Flotilla: Trafalgar Day service, Exeter Cathedral on Oct 17 at 1130. Details from Cdr J. Calderwood RN (Retd), Saddlers Mead, Sid Rd, Sidmouth EX10 9AQ, tel: 01395 515482.

Palestine Campaign: A memorial plaque is to be unveiled on Oct 17 at 1400 at the Modern History Theme Museum, Eden Camp, Malton, North Yorks.

HMS Albion, 1962-64 commission: The first reunion of the 'Old Grey Ghost' will be at the Home Club, Portsmouth, on Oct 30. Contact Leslie Hines on 01449 741887.

November

HMS Cockade R34/D34: Reunion at the Trecarn Hotel, Torquay, Nov 12-15. Details from B. Hutson, 27, Gollands, Brixham, South Devon, TQ5 8JY.

HMS Coventry (1942) Old Hands Association will be attending the Armistice and Reconciliation Service at Coventry Cathedral on Nov 14. Muster at the steps by 1000. Those staying on Saturday night, book direct with Aston Court Hotel, tel: 01203 258585 (was Godiva Hotel). All other enquiries to Bert Stenning on 01273 305193.

December

The River Plate Veterans and Families Association: Reunion at Astor Hotel, Elliot St, Plymouth, December 3-5. All who served in the ships, and friends and relations of those who have died since, are welcome. Details from J. Smith, Lyntonale, Kirtan Lane, Stainforth, Doncaster DN7 5BP, tel: 01302 841806.

881 Combined Operation Bombardment Battery RA (TA): Reunion at the Stag and Hounds and 327, St Leonards Rd, Windsor on Dec 7 at 2000. Details from N. Feeley, 327, St Leonards Rd, Windsor SL4 3DS.

HMS Ajax and River Plate Veterans Association 60th anniversary memorial service for those killed at the battle and other actions, Dec 13 at 1100, St George's Centre, Dock Rd, Gillingham. Details from J.

Material submitted for this page should be brief, clearly written or typed, and addressed to The Editor.

Entries are free of charge, but repeat items can only be inserted on payment of our run-on advertising rate - contact 01705 725062.

Items pertaining to commercial work, books and publications for profit can only appear as paid-for advertising.

Reunions appear in date order, and requests to place an entry in a particular edition cannot always be met.

There may be a delay before items appear, due to the volume of requests.

Calling Old Shipmates

HMS Graemsey: Norman Scott seeks shipmates who served with him on Graemsey during 1950-51 at Grimsby, including PO Prow, LS Cadle, AB Binns, Ford, Hume and McKenzie, STD Read and stokers Murphy and Sherrie. Contact him at 38, Greenway Rd, Tranmere, Birkenhead CH42 0NG.

HMS Dolphin 1946-47: Alan Gallagher wants to contact anyone who served with him, especially Cook Jim Harrison, from Doncaster. Write to 9, Newlands Ave, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE30 2NJ, tel: 01553 775377.

HMS Cumberland: M. Read is hoping to trace RS Middleley (Phot). Any info to Flat 11, Vicarage Court, 51 Danecourt Rd, Poole BH14 0PH, tel: 01202 722492.

Class 'R' RNH Haslar: Were you in Chief Carns last class, July 1975-77? Mary Logie (Park) wants to hear from former classmates or anyone else at Haslar then. Write to 6, Thorfinn Place, Thurso, Caithness KW14 7LN, tel: 01847 893307.

Fourth Destroyer Squadron Association seek former ship's company of HM ships Alamein, Dunkirk, Jutland and Matapan. Details of the newly-formed association from Terry Parker, 54c Cheriton Rd, Folkestone CT20 1DD, tel: 01303 249242.

Ronald Harrington Hudson, maritime ack-ack gunner serving alongside DEMS gunners 1943-46: Does anyone know of his whereabouts or have any info? Contact M. Hall, West Croft, West Lane, Loxley, Sheffield S6 6SN.

Alan J Richmond: Ian Hume is trying to trace his friend, who joined the RN as a boy in 1948 at HMS Ganges. In the early 50s he joined HMS Vanguard, and in the late 50s he was at HMS Trincomalee. Contact Ian Hume, 73 Clendon Esplanade, Rawene, Hokianga, New Zealand.

HMS Forest Moor will hold an event to celebrate 40 years as a commissioned ship, Sept 30, 2000. All who served in the establishment are welcome. Contact Lt Watson 01423 774204 or RS Briggs 01423 774209.

Clive E Milo (RN 45-55 RCN 55-60), attending a reunion in Portsmouth, October 5-7, wishes to contact Leslie Cox, joining RN as artificer shipwright and trained at Chatham 45-50, drafted HMS Kenya 1950 and served in Korean conflict until 1952, when he was invalided out. Anyone knowing where he can be contacted, please contact Clive Milo, 19826 Star Ridge Drive, Sun City West, Arizona, 85375-4111, USA, or tel Portsmouth Home Club 01705 824231.

HMS Ramillies 1944-46: Ron Wright

would like to contact his old stoker shipmate, Fred Billings, last thought to live in Bedford. Contact Ron at 41, Sydney, Stonehouse, Glos GL10 2PU.

Johnny Lee, Gordon Dale and James Gibson: Info please on these lads, now aged 67-68, who as FAA Artificers finished their apprenticeships at HMS Concor, December 1952. Contact Alan Hyde on 01279 415976.

HMS Ceres 1950, J W 10 Class: Old classmates for possible reunion - especially anonymous one in Stockport - contact Alan Mathieson, 39, Gleebe Rd, Kilmarnock KA1 3DJ, or e-mail: alan.mathieson@tesco.net

RN Submarine Centenary 1901 - 2001: Barrow-in-Furness Submariners Branch start off the anniversary with a weekend of events planned for May 4-7, 2001. More details from Ron Hiseham, 106, Mill Lane, Walney Island, Barrow-in-Furness LA14 3NT, tel/fax: 01229 471465.

HMS President, London RNR: POSA AI Simpson RCNR, who served as Canadian exchange onboard President 1977-79, would like to hear from old messmates of the Senior Rates mess to learn what became of the president, HMS Chrysanthemum and HMS Sandpiper. Contact AI Simpson, 2016 Shore Road, Eastern Passage, Nova Scotia, B3G 1H4, Canada.

HM ships Halcyon and Empire Spearhead: Frank Schmieden is looking for any crew from these ships, Arctic convoys 1942 to South Pacific 1944, in particular Harry Galloway, last known of in Australia. Contact Frank at Well Cottage, 31 West Cliff Drive, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 8DS, tel: 01227 360847.

HMS illustrious Stewards Reunion: Did you join during refit 1992 and 1995? If so contact Mike Hawley on 0797 137 8237 (Mobile) or LSTD Dave Kerley on 01923 838100 if you are interested in a reunion.

Trawler Stella Rigel: Jack Lockwood's father, Cecil 'Sparks' Allen, wants to contact his old colleague, Freddie - the only name he can remember. They served in this converted trawler 1943-44 at Ipswich. Freddie lived in Falmouth and was a fisherman before joining the RN as a gunlayer; Cecil lived in Chingford. Contact Mrs Lockwood at 35, St Gluvias St, Penryn, Cornwall TR10 8BJ, tel: 01326 374005.

HMS Glasgow 1941 - 46: Royal Marine Butcher J (Steve, Bob) Stevens would like to contact old shipmates. Does anyone remember Glasgow's Chinese PO Cook 'Nan'? Contact him at 78, Ely Drive, Rottingdean,

Brighton BN2 7FG, tel: 01273 305730.

HMS Hood: Any member of last draft (13 in all) to leave several days before she sank, please contact W. Yates, 12, Garstang Rd East, Poulton-Le-Fylde, Lancs FY6 7EH, tel: 01253 884046.

HMS St Brides Bay: Taffy Jones wants to

hear from any of the crew, especially Ben Duffy and A. Prosser, who served with him in 1946-47. Contact Taffy at 58, Beechwood Rd, Salford, Chester CH4 8TW.

Raymond (Nobby) Hall or Clark/e? You were at HMS Raleigh, March 1955 on an engineering course with Mrs. Reeve's father, Derek Hyde. Ray was Derek's best man on September 19, 1964 at West Ewell, Surrey. Ray probably came from the Buckhurst Hill area of Essex when he joined the Navy. Contact Mrs J. Reeve, Shambles, Philip Rudd Court, Pott Row, Kings Lynn PE32 1WA, tel: 01485 600900 or e-mail: julie.reeve@virgin.net

Don Devlin (Stokes): Don was in the

football team of every ship and shore estab-

lishment he was on. He had many pho-

tographs which were lost in a house fire. If

anyone remembers him or has pictures he

could copy from Raleigh '56, Maidstone '57,

Broadford '58, Puma '62, Plymouth and

Portland Command, Drake Barracks, Victory

Barracks, Vernon and others, contact him at

35, Templar Ave, Shadwell St Mary, Grays

RM16 4ER, tel: 01375 842218.

Fast Minelayers Association: Anyone

who served on the following ships are eligible

to join; HM Ships Abdiel, Latona, Apollo,

Welshman, Ariadne and Manxman. Northern

section meets first Tuesday of the month at the

Railway Club, Manchester Piccadilly Station at

1300. Details: Jim Calcraft on 01274 589275.

HMS Tyler: Are there any more of the

crew still around, other than H. Bryce, R.

Emmington and P. Mason-Gray? Contact P.

Mason-Gray at 152, Leeson Drive, Ferndown

BH22 9QU - possible reunion?

HMS Verulam R28 and F29: Seeking

shipmates for June reunion, particularly

those who served in her after conversion to

type 15 frigate. Details from Chris Williams

on 01621 816207 after 6pm or weekends.

HMS Protector, Capt Setton Sandford:

A few of the ships company of the last com-

mission are trying to organise a reunion.

Contact M. Tuit at Lower Mill House Flat,

Lord Leyscester Hospital, Warks CV34 4BH,

or tel: 01926 493484, especially Sid Cook

(Laundry), AB 'Fez' Parker, Joe Davis LS

Diver and POCK Whiston.

Grimsby is handed over at Pompey

Eighth new Sandown delivered

THE ROYAL NAVY'S latest Sandown-class minehunter has been handed over by Vosper Thornycroft in Portsmouth.

The vessel is the eighth Sandown built by VT in a 12-ship programme which runs until 2001 and the glass reinforced plastic ships are recognised as the world's most advanced minehunters.

HMS Grimsby was handed over after the ship's final machinery trials, with Lt Cdr Tim Lewis officially taking command.

Grimsby was launched in August 1998 and was built and fitted out using four per cent fewer man hours than the previous ship of the class.

The latest minehunter to be launched by Vosper Thornycroft was HMS Bangor, and the company believes that they will be able to make further improvements in productivity with her.

VT Shipbuilding Director Bob Mulligan said: "VT has been successful in fulfilling the requirement to build these ships more efficiently and to provide the tax-payer with better value for money. "We have continued to reach new productivity milestones and HMS Grimsby again re-writes the record book."

HMS Grimsby is 52.5m long, is 10.5m wide, displaces 500 tons, has a crew of 40 and a top speed of 14 knots.



● BRAND NEW: HMS Grimsby, the RN's latest Sandown-class minesweeper, has been handed over by Vosper Thornycroft.

The Rolls Royce of minesweepers!

AS NAVY NEWS went to press HMS Grimsby was heading north to commission in her namesake port.

The ceremony in Grimsby on September 25 takes place in a port which was also the home of the most successful minesweeper of WWII.

Over 750 mines were laid in the Humber area during the war with the most intensive enemy activity seen during WWII.

On her first sweep on March 9, 1941, HMT Rolls Royce detonated three ground mines and on November 30 she swept a record 13 mines in one hour 19 minutes.

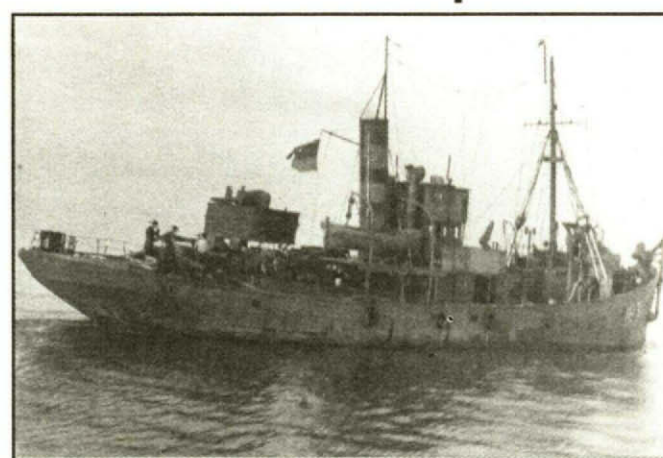
By Christmas 1941 the vessel had swept up her 100th mine and by the end of the war she had set a record total of 197.

Eventually the enemy turned their attention to the channel from Flamborough Head to Cromer.

But the minesweeper helped to ensure that over nine million tons of shipping entered and left the river during WWII with no casualties.

Throughout the war the minesweeper was given tremendous support from the townspeople and the staff of Rolls Royce Crewe Division, raising hundreds of pounds (in old money) every year and keeping the men supplied with the few luxuries which were available.

HMT Rolls Royce was manned by the RN Patrol Service and members of the RNPS Association will be guests of honour at HMS Grimsby's commissioning.



● HMT ROLLS ROYCE: champion minesweeper of World War II.

Drafty... General Service Engineering

Getting the message through

GENERAL SERVICE Engineering Drafting Staff speak to all career courses passing through HMS Sultan, Collingwood and the RN School of Leadership and Management.

In fact, hundreds of people per year have face-to-face contact with a drafter, including a very welcome increase in visits to the Naval Drafting Directorate by Departmental Co-ordinators, Heads and Deputy Heads of Departments, to discuss departmental planning and your individual queries.

The point is that the Divisional System does have links with Naval Drafting so please use that, rather than anonymously submitted views and comments on drafting matters, as the way to deliver your message and actually get a response.

In all instances, potential drafting issues should be discussed with your own Divisional superiors who may themselves be able to help and if not, they will contact NDD on your behalf. Senior Ratings, with DO's clearance, are still encouraged to speak directly with their drafting desks when

it is hoped that brief but mutually beneficial dialogue will ensue.

The very openness of direct contact may be sufficient to resolve your drafters' current crisis - you won't know until you try.

You should appreciate however that NDD cannot provide a 'chat-line' service, and that on-the-spot deals, fixes or promises are not part of the drafting process.

□ WEAs, MTA and cross streaming: The taut nature of the WEA AD plot, previously reported, is now being repeated for the WD and OC categories, the impact being that Achieved Time Ashore (ATA) equals, or is close to, the directed Minimum Time Ashore (MTA) which is a measure of the least amount of shore time which must be given between sea drafts.

To ensure that those serving ashore actually achieve their MTA, sea drafts for the above WEA categories are being extended to the maximum of 33 months. When a drafting category reaches MTA, drafting flexibility is reduced and particularly the ability to manage Stream Drafting (BR 14.0110), or draft according to equipment specialist skills.

This increases the need to cross-stream to provide necessary expertise where and when it is required.

□ More CCMEAs: Following a dip in draftable numbers, improvement is imminent. The first CCMEA Qualifying Course are now receiving B13's, to be followed soon by the November CCMEAQC, and promotion of remaining traditional PQE CPOMEAs.

This will ease the sea and shore plots from January 2000, extend time ashore, increase drafting flexibility and our ability to achieve stated preferences.

□ Bath and Bristol: There has been a steady increase in SSA billets in these areas for MEAs, particularly those with Type 23 experience.

With a decline in the MEA billets in the main preference areas, now might be a good time for a change by volunteering for one of these high spec, high tech billets.

□ Bouncing technology: Be your own MEO or his Deputy! CC/CPOMEA volunteers, ML and EL, are always being sought to fill these rewarding positions in Portsmouth and Faslane based Hunts and Sandowns. Extensive PJT package guaranteed!

□ Steam lives on: As HMS Fearless is to run on, the book is open to accept new names to the exclusive list of active 'steam qualified volunteers'. That old steam ticket has value you didn't realise, especially if you are a Portsmouth preference.

□ CPOMEA's GET NVO'd: This civilian recognised qualification will be held by CPOMEAs joining the SURFLOT in the future. The NVO Assessor (ME24) week-long course is held at HMS Sultan.

□ Tickets please! A significant number of B13's for POMEM are being returned because LMEMs do not yet have the appropriate Tickets. All LMEM's who passed PQE for POMEM after 1 Sep 1995 must hold a Switchboard Operating Certificate (SOC) and a Marine Engineer Officer of the Watch 2 Certificate (MEOOW2C), or Boiler / Diesel equivalents to be FULLY qualified for promotion.

Those held up through lack of tickets should seriously consider volunteering to return to sea to get qualified. There is no other way.

□ MEBD trained CMEMs: Currently, approximately 50% of all the CMEM(L) and 25% of CMEM(M) sea billets require MEBD skills. These percentages will increase and the traditional CMEM sea billets will continue to decline.

Clearly the way forward is to acquire MEBD skills as a way towards greater career satisfaction and a good start towards life after the RN. A continuous new supply of MEBD trained CMEMs is required so don't miss your opportunity. Fast Path training and a new hands-on future are yours for the asking via a C230 or C240.

Situations vacant

THE NAVAL DRAFTING Directorate is seeking volunteers for the following:

NA(AH) for DNR Wroughton. A shore billet based in Swindon. Recruiting mobile displays, LVGC essential. Required March for six months.

CPOAEA(L) for DERA Boscombe Down. A shore billet at Salisbury, trials officer for rotary wing armaments and electrical systems. Required from July for 30 months.

CPOAEA(L) for HMS Ark Royal. A shore billet at Rosyth. NBCD duties overseeing refit followed by sea service. Required August for three years.

CPO (ANY) for DNR Wroughton. A shore billet at Swindon. Recruiting mobile displays. Required October 1999 for two years.

LMEM(L) for HMS Nottingham. A sea billet at Portsmouth following Devonport refit. Normal MEM(L) duties. Required May for 30 months.


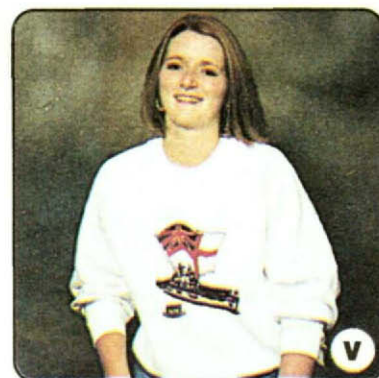
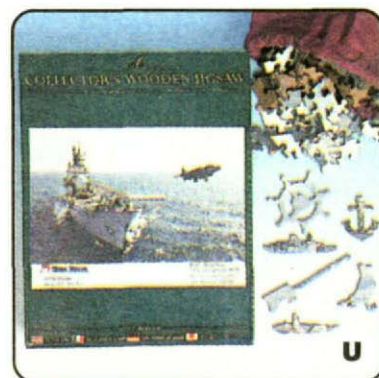
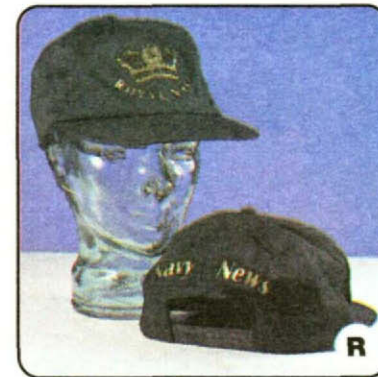
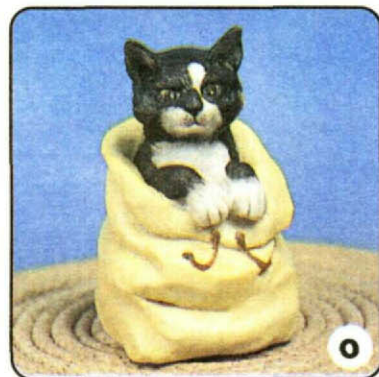
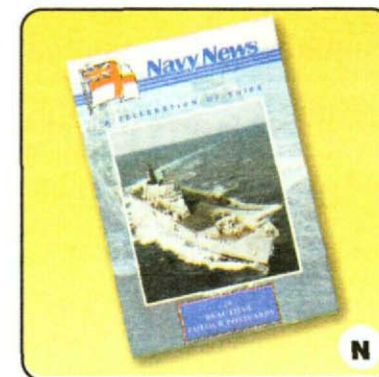
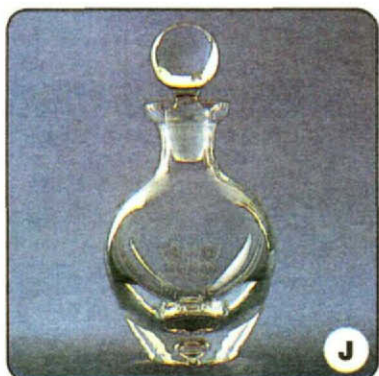
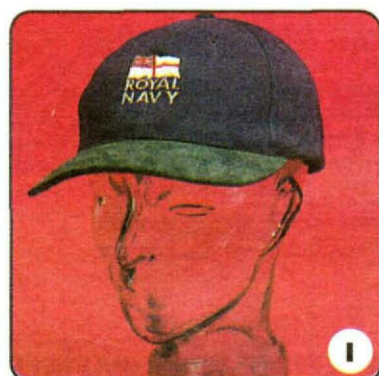
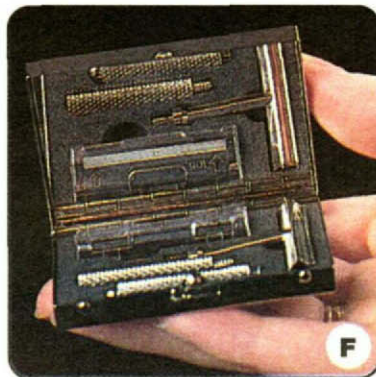
LMEM(M) for NEFI. A sea billet based in the Falkland Islands. Normal LMEM(M) duties. Required May for four months.

POMEM(M) for HMS Dumbarton Castle. A sea billet based in the Falkland Islands. ME408/MICE qualifications required. From July for six months.



JACKSTORE

Gifts With a
Nautical Flavour –
Ideal for those with
a Love of the Sea

A Blazer Buttons – (Full set of 7)

£25.95 set UK
£26.95 set Surface Mail Abroad

B Matching Cufflinks

£17.95 pair UK
£18.45 Surface Mail Abroad

C Simon of the Amethyst fine bone china mug

£8.99 each UK
£9.74 each Surface Mail Abroad

D Monocular Telescope 8x magnification

£31.99 each UK
Surface mail Abroad please add 75p

E Navy News Clock – 14 1/4" diameter

£41.99 each UK
£42.49 Surface mail Abroad

F Mini Razor Set

£7.99 each UK
£8.74 each Surface Mail Abroad

G HMS Ocean Poster – 87cm x 45cm

£2.74 each UK
£3.74 each Surface Mail Abroad

H Navy Sweatshirts Med/Lge/XLge

£19.95 each UK
£20.70 Surface Mail Abroad

I Navy Blue Baseball Cap with Green Suede Peak

£9.50 each UK
£9.99 Surface Mail Abroad

J Clear Crystal Round Liqueur Decanter

£46.95 each UK
(Surface Mail Abroad please telephone for packaging costs)

K Mini Quadro and Tots

£32.99 each UK
(Surface Mail Abroad please telephone for packaging costs)

L Nautical Anchor Corkscrew Size 17cm in length overall

£14.95 each UK
£15.45 Surface Mail Abroad

M Anchor Paperweight (crown motif also available)

£21.99 each UK
£22.99 Surface Mail Overseas

N Postcard Presentation Pack

£4.50 each UK
£5.00 Surface Mail Abroad

O Simon of the Amethyst Statue

£24.99 each UK
£25.99 each Surface Mail Abroad

P Seahorse Scarf 90cm x 90cm

£21.99 each UK
£22.49 Surface Mail Abroad

Q White Ensign Scarf - with White Ensigns

on blue navy background 52" x 9"
£12.99 each UK
£13.49 Surface Mail Abroad

R Black Baseball Cap

£4.75 each UK
£5.50 each Surface Mail Overseas

S Hip Flask 7oz in stainless steel

£17.99 each UK
Surface mail Abroad please add 75p

T Bakkus Flask and Cigar Tubes

£32.99 set UK
£33.74 Surface Mail Abroad

U HMS Illustrious Jigsaw 250 piece in velvet bag

£19.99 each UK
£20.74 Surface Mail Abroad

V White Sweatshirts Sml/Med/Lge/XLge

£13.95 each UK
£14.70 Surface Mail Abroad

Calling all Navy News' Subscribers – Did you know - that by quoting your unique subscriber number, you can take advantage of our 10% discount off any of Navy News' own promotional items advertised throughout the paper.

To order any item on this page write to or telephone:-
The Business Manager (JS10/99), Navy News, HMS Nelson, Portsmouth, PO1 3HH

Cheques payable to Navy News to accompany orders. For orders outside the UK payment can be made by Cheque/International Money Order in £ Sterling and drawn on UK bank or for payment by credit card/switch, UK & Abroad, please use the coupon on page 4.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT/MOD
Reproduced with the permission
of the Controller of HMSO

Please allow 28 days for delivery. NOTE: ITEMS SHOWN NOT ACTUAL SIZE.

For more details of Navy News items or to order
please telephone 01705 733558
or ask for a FREE colour brochure

Note: All Glassware finely engraved with the Royal Navy Crown



A Navy News Advertising Feature

Money Matters



Give your finances a health check

MOST PEOPLE experience financial difficulties at some point in their lives. Whether through sickness or injury, divorce or disability, there are times when the sums do not add up and the bills seem never ending.

But ignoring the situation will not make it go away, and will usually make matters worse, so the first and most important step to take is to realise that there is a problem and take appropriate action.

Take five minutes to assess your own finances by answering the following questions. Give honest answers and you will get an instant assessment of your personal finances.

1. You have won £10,000 on the lottery. Do you:

a) Consider all your options, consult your financial adviser and decide to invest the money carefully?

b) Have a holiday, buy a car and put what's left into a savings account?

c) Have a holiday, buy a car and still worry about how to pay the mortgage next month?

2. Can you estimate your total debts

a) Nothing except the paper bill and your children's pocket money

Advertising feature

b) Between £2,000 and £6,000 on the usual car HP and small overdraft

c) Over £10,000 and increasing daily.

3. When you get your monthly bank statement do you:

a) Open it, check it carefully against your records then file it in the usual place?

b) Open it, think 'Oh dear, I must try not to go overdrawn next month' and put it in the bin?

c) Leave it unopened behind the clock with all the others

4. Do you keep records of your monthly expenditure?

a) Yes

b) No, but I have a good idea of how much I spend every month.

c) No, I have no idea

5. Is your mortgage:

a) Paid on the dot every month by standing order

b) Paid every month, but I did miss a couple of payments last Christmas

c) Three months in arrears with the house worth less than you paid for it

6. How much do you owe on each of your credit cards?

a) Nothing, I clear the balance each month

b) It varies, sometimes I clear the balance, other times it tends to build up

c) I am up to my limit on three of the cards and on the others I owe £500 to £1,000

7. How do you think about your financial future?

a) It doesn't really worry me because I make sure that my expenditure is within my income.

b) It does worry me a bit, especially around holiday and Christmas time.

c) I can't sleep for worrying and don't know who to turn to

So, how did you do?

If most of your answers were option a) you might consider a new career as a bank manager. You are obviously in control of your finances. Well done.

If most of your answers were option b) then you seem to be managing quite well. Be careful to keep in touch with your day-to-day finances. Try keeping a record of what you spend each month so that you know exactly where you are at any time and save a little for contingencies.

If most of your answers were option c) then perhaps the time has come to face the truth. Take your head out of the sand and open those letters now. You are in a difficult situation but with the right advice it can be turned into a situation that you can live with.

If you want advice, a free debt counselling service is provided by Federated Credit Ltd who can be contacted on their freephone number, 0800 716239.


WARRIOR

Give your life a boost

With a personal loan from Warrior

- Freephone access
- Friendly confidential service
- No set up fees
- Fast decision
- Electronic transfer of funds
- No complicated forms
- Military finance specialist

Personal loans

For more information call into any branch of Naafi Financial Services or telephone our dedicated call centre on:

00800 21 22 23 24 (UK & Germany)

+44 1959 56 89 69 (Rest of World)

Lines open 8.30am to 8.30pm Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 4pm Saturday & Sunday (UK times) For your security reasons calls may be recorded.

All loans subject to status and not available to people under 18. Warrior Reserves the right to decline any application.

HAVE YOU USED YOUR OWN PERSONAL VEHICLE FOR DUTY TRAVEL? (RN FORM C30)

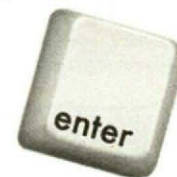
IF SO, YOU ARE ENTITLED TO A REFUND!

BLANCHFIELD ECLIPSE

ACCOUNTANTS OFFER A NO REFUND - NO FEE OFFER TO ALL ROYAL NAVY AND ROYAL MARINE PERSONNEL! CALL NOW FOR DETAILS...

PHONE 01942 224937 FAX 01942 217579

We can unlock the most competitive mortgages for you with just one key



With the new Allied Dunbar Mortgage Application Service, we will find you a competitive mortgage that best suits your needs.

Please call **Steve Abbott** MLIA (dip), or **Peter Parish** MLIA (dip) Financial Planning Consultants

on **0113 242 2212** or **0973 622495** (mobile)

Allied Dunbar Assurance plc. Canal Wharf, Leeds LS11 5DB.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Suitable security and adequate life cover may be required by the lender. Full written details are available on request. Steve Abbott, Gary Jackson and Peter Parish are licensed credit brokers. Allied Dunbar Financial Advisers Ltd is a member of the Allied Dunbar and Threadneedle Marketing Group and is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority in relation to the life assurance and pension products of Allied Dunbar and the investment products of Threadneedle.

Professional advice for the life you don't yet know.



FORCES AND EX-SERVICE PERSONNEL

**DO YOU SUFFER FROM:
WOUNDS, DISEASES, NOISE DEAFNESS,
INJURIES OR ANY OTHER CONDITIONS AS
A RESULT OF YOUR SERVICE?**

IF SO YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO

COMPENSATION

TO FIND OUT IF YOU QUALIFY, CONTACT:
THORN COMPENSATION SERVICES LIMITED
TEL: 0500 222 022 (FREEPHONE)

**MARSH HOUSE
92a MARSHLAND ROAD
MOORENDS
DONCASTER
DN8 4SZ**

ESTABLISHED 1988



Money Matters



A Navy News Advertising Feature

Looking after your financial well-being

WELLBEING Services offers a free and independent advice aimed at solving financial problems which affect individuals, families and business.

They can advise and assist on a whole range of financial problems but they are not a loan company and they cannot lend any money.

Through their team of trained debt advisors they can assist in restructuring even the most difficult of financial situations.

In their experience, most debts are triggered by circumstances beyond an individual's control and usually through no fault of their own.

But the commonality of all referrals is that in all cases, expenditure has outstripped income.

The starting point to resolving any debt problem is to get a full picture of the individual circumstances, not just on the financial side.

Once this has been established all the possible solutions can be discussed, and it is important that the answer to the problem remains with the person who is in debt.

That's why Wellbeing have structured a 'one-stop' shop which can resolve any debt problem.

All advice is free and confidential and both clients and advisors alike are able to access their services. For more information call them on 01329 515532, fax on 01329 515806 or e-mail davewbs@aol.com.

How is your credit rating worked out?

THE WIDE availability of credit facilities has largely been made possible by the existence of credit information companies.

It is the details that they supply on you which determines whether or not their customers will approve the credit applications which you make.

Once such company, Equifax Ltd, explains what they do and how they do it...

1. What kind of data does a credit information agency collect?

Equifax receives data from a number of sources. Our data includes electoral register information supplied by local authorities and consisting of over 44 million names and 24 million addresses, details of County Court judgments (CCJs) and Scottish Decrees, and bankruptcy information.

We also collect information from our subscribers, including details of existing loan agreements and historical information about the repayment patterns of individuals.

2. How is this information used? Electoral register information is used to confirm residency, occupancy, distinction between members of a family and length of residence.

Information such as CCJs is used to provide an indication of an applicant's past financial history.

Data supplied by our subscribers gives us details of existing loan commitments and helps lenders to make responsible decisions on loans.

Subscribed-supplied information allows lenders to reduce their exposure to risk and to help protect individuals from over-committing themselves, especially when there may already be an existing debt problem.

Advertising feature

Each lender has a different policy and it is often possible to obtain credit from another lender if you have been turned down. Essentially though, they all try to determine whether or not an individual will be able to keep up repayments. Many use a credit scorecard, with 10 to 30 questions attracting points for each answer and the total indicating the risk involved in granting the loan.

3. Who uses the information? Our information is available to major banks, finance houses, building societies, specialist home loan companies, retailers and insurance companies.

4. What is third party information and under what circumstances is it supplied to lenders?

Third party information is information about someone else who has resided with you concurrently at your present or previous address, as a member of the same family or in a single household.

This means that if a previous occupant of your home has an unfavourable credit history it will not affect your application.

But in many cases third party data can help lenders accurately assess a consumer's ability to maintain repayments and statistical evidence confirms that information on family groups or other members of the same household does have a bearing on creditworthiness.

5. What is a credit blacklist?

The short answer is that there is no such thing as a credit blacklist at Equifax. There is a general misconception that there is a computer blacklist of people who have been refused credit.

Equifax operates no such list but provides all information, positive and negative, to help lenders to make an informed decision about whether or not to grant credit.

6. How do lenders assess my loan application?

These agencies advertise that they can have personal CCJs removed from files, often for a substantial fee.

But CCJs can only be removed under very specific circumstances (described in the Lord Chancellor's Debt leaflet 'Paying Your Judgment') and where they can be removed the procedures are so simple you don't really require the services of a credit repair agency.

Yes. Under the Consumer Credit Act of 1974, consumers can write to credit information companies to request a copy of the file held on you for a charge of £2. To see your Equifax file write to Equifax, Debt 1E, PO Box 3001, Glasgow G81 2DT.

Please enclose your title, full first name and surname, addresses for the last six years and a cheque for £2.

8. What can I do if the information is not correct?

If you feel that the information is incorrect, or you would like to add a note of explanation, Equifax will add an agreed statement to your file.

9. What are credit repair agencies?

Insurance for critical illness

NOT SO long ago a critical illness such as a heart attack would normally be fatal.

This meant that normal life insurance would provide all of the financial protection that was required for your family and business, but as medical science advances, many people survive critical illness but are never able to work again.

Critical illness policies, which offer a cash lump sum to pay off a mortgage, pay for medical treatment, go on holiday or simply recuperate, are now widely available and are well worth considering.

DEBT PROBLEMS?

Are your outgoings more than your income?

Are your creditors threatening you with:

Court summons, Solicitors, Bankruptcy, Bailiffs, Debt collectors, Disconnection, Attachment of earnings.

If you can answer yes to any of the above, then contact us now. We provide realistic solutions for all debt problems without the need to borrow more money.

Telephone **01329 515532** for a **FREE** and **CONFIDENTIAL** consultation.

WELLBEING SERVICES
PROVIDING DEBT SOLUTIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES



DEBTS

FOR FREE CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE CALL NOW

FCL



If you are in a situation where you are unable to service or repay your creditors we may be able to help you.

Here is an example of a client we have helped.

Client A had served in the Armed Forces for 5 years. His previous marriage had ended with divorce and left him with a bill of £276 every four weeks from the Child Support Agency. He subsequently re-married and lived with his second wife and their new baby. The family found it very hard to survive financially and relied heavily on their credit cards and various loans which allowed them to manage. At this point Client A was sent overseas for 6 months. His wife struggled to cope at home on her own and especially with running the family budget by herself. By the time her husband returned it was clear that their debts had become unmanageable.

When we were contacted, their unsecured debts were as follows:

AnyBank Loan	£5,000
Finance Company Loan	£4,500
Credit Cards (2)	£3,500
Store Cards (4)	£3,000
Other Creditors	£1,000
Total	£17,000

We were able to restructure the family's outgoings and make an offer to their creditors that they were able to afford, over a 5 year period in **full and final settlement** of their debts.

Federated Credit Ltd are a national company who specialise in finding solutions for individuals who are in financial difficulty. **WE ARE NOT A LOAN COMPANY.**

FREEPHONE 0800 716239

Please quote Ref: NN3

NAVY LOANS

COMMITMENT FREE OFFER

- ❖ NO UP-FRONT FEES - we pay for all references, valuations, etc.
- ❖ WE NEGOTIATE - on your behalf with a variety of banks, building societies and finance houses - FREE.
- ❖ Our Consultant can call FREE OF CHARGE without obligation or you can complete by post - you choose.
- ❖ If you are unhappy with our service or loan offer you can cancel at any time and... IT WON'T COST YOU A PENNY.

HOME OWNERS CALL FREE
0800 528 2819
8AM - 9PM 7 DAYS A WEEK

UNSECURED LOANS UP TO £15,000
Immediate decision and hi-speed payout to homeowners aged 23 or over. Different terms apply. For a decision in minutes
UNSECURED HOMEOWNERS CALL:
0870 160 0926
TENANTS CALL: 08701 600820

FISA
REGISTERED

Midland & General Direct Ltd
Freepost WV1 876 · Wolverhampton · WV1 1BR
See our web site at: www.midland-general.co.uk
Licensed Credit Brokers - Part of the Ocwen Group

dfb
Members of the
Corporation of
Finance Brokers

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR LOWEST RATES IN THE UK FOR OVER 30 YEARS

WITH OVER 300 STAFF WE ARE THE LARGEST IN THE UK.
YOU CAN BE CONFIDENT THAT YOUR LOAN IS IN EXPERT HANDS.

REMORTGAGES FIXED OR VARIABLE RATES. MAXIMUM FEE 2.5% - A.P.R.'s FROM

SECURED LOANS FOR MORTGAGE PAYERS & HOME OWNERS	Monthly Payment	ASK ABOUT FIXED RATES
£40,000 over 20 years	£350.68	4.5% fixed to APRIL 2001
£25,000 over 15 years	£248.24	
£20,000 over 10 years	£259.23	8.9% variable A.P.R.
£17,500 over 15 years	£197.50	
£15,000 over 10 years	£205.95	11.4% variable A.P.R.
£10,000 over 7 years	£170.80	
£7,500 over 7 years	£127.90	12.9% variable A.P.R.
£6,000 over 7 years	£106.80	
£5,000 over 5 years	£111.90	

Typical example: £7,000 over 60 months is £156.66 per month. Total payable: £9,399.60 - A.P.R. 12.9% (variable). Loan Subject to Status. Written Quotes on Request.

OTHER TERMS/AMOUNTS AVAILABLE

Nothing to pay for 3 months!

Ask for details

LOANS FROM £3,000 TO £250,000 OVER 3 TO 25 YEARS

- ❖ You can borrow up to 125% of your property value - up to £45,000 - so NO EQUITY IS NO PROBLEM!
- ❖ County Court judgements, mortgage arrears or self employed without proof of income considered providing you can afford the repayments - up to 10% fee maybe added
- ❖ Fixed or variable rates available
- ❖ Ask about our Loan Stretcher Plan
- ❖ Accident, sickness and redundancy insurance available



● **BATTLE-SCARRED:** Falklands veteran 'Humphrey' the helicopter returns to the FAA Museum. Splinter damage inflicted by three Argentine Dagger fighters can be seen, circled in red.

Falklands veteran takes back his place of honour

A BATTLE-SCARRED veteran of the Falklands war has taken a place of honour at the Fleet Air Arm Museum in Yeovilton more than 17 years after playing a part in some of the most heroic episodes of the conflict.

The veteran in question is the helicopter XP 142, affectionately known as Humphrey, which was originally built as a Wessex HAS 1 and delivered to 845 Naval Air Squadron in 1962, a unit which saw service in Borneo and the Far East.

It was converted to HAS 3 in 1969 and served with 814, 706 and 829 Squadron before joining 737 NAS in 1976.

But it was in 1982, when 'Humphrey' was coded 406/AN and embarked in HMS Antrim, that his finest moments came. Antrim has been exercising off Gibraltar and was diverted to the South Atlantic on April 2, 1982, with the helicopter and pilot, Flight Commander, Lt Cdr Ian Stanley.

On April 22, 1982, Lt Cdr Stanley rescued a special forces team from appalling weather on the Fortuna Glacier in South Georgia, along with

the crews of two other Wessex HU5s which had crashed attempting the same mission. And the next day, another special forces team was extracted from a boat off Cumberland Bay in South Georgia, again in appalling weather.

On April 25, the helicopter dropped depth charges on the Argentine submarine Santa Fe, adding to missile damage inflicted by a Wasp HAS 1 from HMS Endurance, which forced the submarine to make for Grytviken where it sank.

'Humphrey' was also on the deck of HMS Antrim in San Carlos Water when three Dagger fighters attacked, causing extensive splinter damage to the aircraft which can still be clearly seen.

Antrim returned to the UK in 1982 and the helicopter flew for the last time on July 17 when he returned to RNAS Portland. Humphrey was on display at the Fleet Air Arm Museum at Yeovilton until 1994 when he was placed in the reserve collection at RNAY Wroughton, but he has now made a triumphant return and will be on display in Concorde Hall before taking up permanent residence in the new Preservation Hangar.

Hunt-class are back in the RAS business

HMS CHIDDINGFOLD became the first Hunt-class minesweeper to conduct an operational resupply at sea (RAS) for more than three years during the latest Joint Maritime Course off the West Coast of Scotland.

Concerns over the safety of RAS-ing equipment on the MCMVs led to an embargo in 1996 which was only lifted a few months ago.

Chiddingfold's sister ship HMS Quorn followed suit and HMS Leeds Castle was standing by as safety vessel in the lifeguard station throughout both operations.

The task group, which also included HMS Walney and HMS Penzance, with RFA Sir Geraint in support, was commanded by Cdr Colin Welborn, and the JMC provided a work-up for their deployment to the Mediterranean with Exercise Argonaut.



● **RAS:** HMS Chiddingfold becomes the first MCMV to operationally resupply-at-sea since a safety embargo was imposed in 1996. The ship was part of a minesweeping task force in JMC 992, which acted as a work-up for the Mediterranean Exercise Argonaut.

SHADY CHARACTERS SPOTTED IN SAUDI ARABIA



● **BRIGHT FUTURE:** The Royal Navy team from Flag Officer Sea Training (MPV) which flew to Saudi Arabia and provided evaluation and training for the Royal Saudi Naval Force.

THIS SHADY bunch of characters are in fact a team of Naval experts from the staff of Flag Officer Sea Training.

The men, from FOST(MPV), are pictured in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia where they were conducting Operational Readiness Evaluation for the Royal Saudi Naval Force.

It is the first time that a fully-deployed (non-UK territories based) training team has been provided for a foreign navy by Flag Officer Sea Training.

Their task was to provide two weeks of general training for the Saudi Sandown-class vessels Al Kharj and Shaqra and then another two weeks on mine countermeasures.

But the deployment was not all work and no play. After a day's work in blistering heat the evenings were spent enjoying some QPT (Quality Pool Time) at their hotel, a world away

from the drizzle of a Scottish summer.

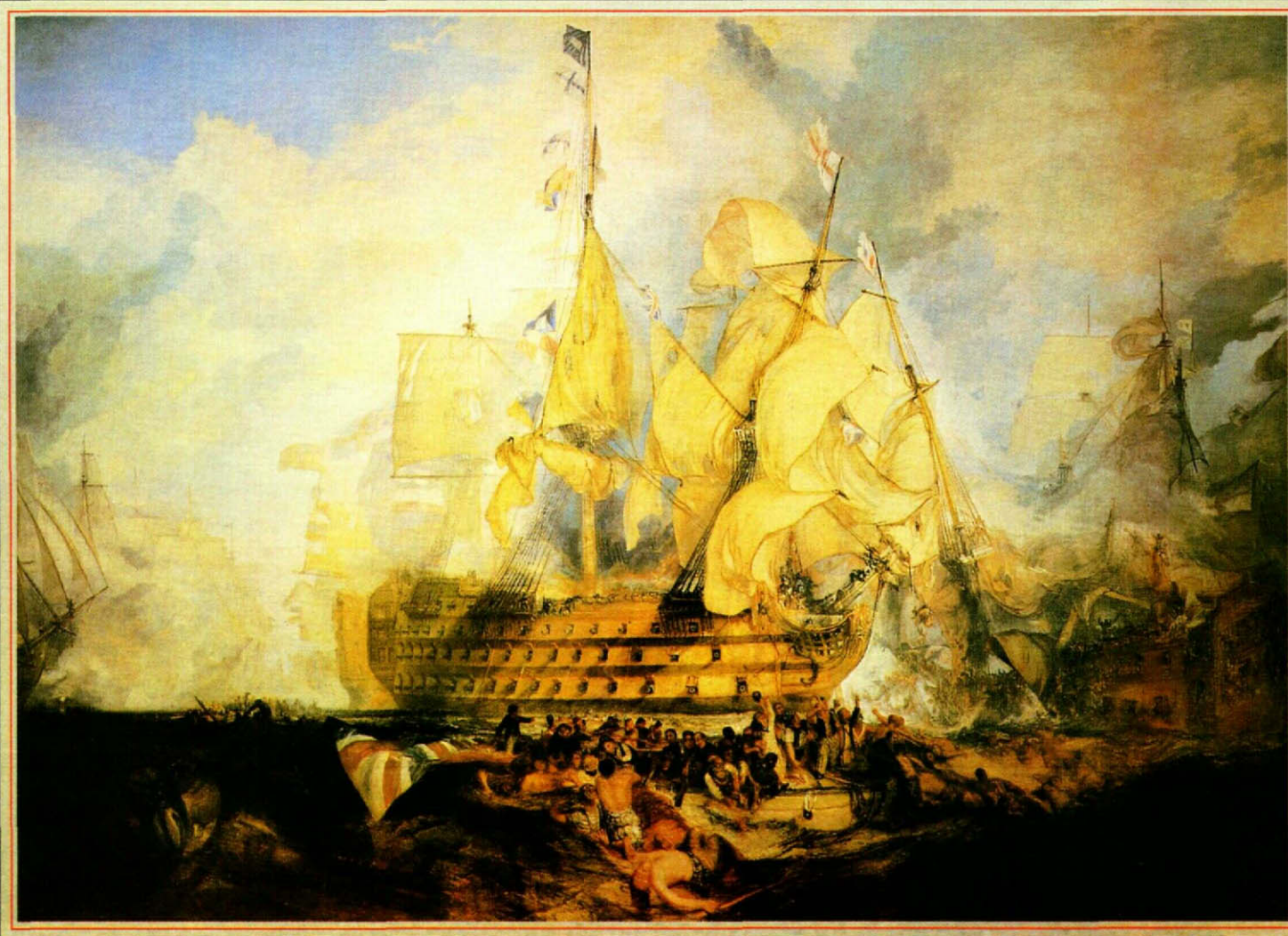
Although Saudia is a dry state, the team had some enjoyable runs ashore in Al Jubail and Khobar where some delightful food forays were made, including such delicacies as brain curry!

Looking back on the deployment, the team say that it was a complete success, demonstrating FOST (MPV)'s ability to deploy world-wide, independently of host nation or service support.

And their only question is: "Where next!?"

Published for the first time as a superb quality fine art lithograph,
Turner's great tribute to Nelson's outstanding victory at Trafalgar.

THE BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR 21ST OCTOBER 1805



THE BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR
The October 1805
J.M.W. Turner R.A. 1775-1851

JMW Turner RA 1775-1851

THE NATIONAL



MARITIME MUSEUM

Framed size 33 x 26 inches

Against the superior numbers of the combined French and Spanish fleets, Nelson's stunning victory at Trafalgar secured England's mastery of the seas and dashed forever Napoleon's hopes of invading Britain.

Commissioned by George IV for St James' Palace, Turner's vast canvas treats the scene of the battle on the epic scale which its significance demanded. The painting is now available for the first time as a beautifully mounted and framed lithograph, measuring a full 33 x 26 inches.

Limited to just 5,000 copies

Published in association with The National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, where the original painting is now on view, this superb edition has been strictly limited to just 5,000 copies.

Craftsman mounted & framed

To ensure preservation each lithograph is



Horatio, Lord Nelson
1758-1805. His
heroic victory and
ultimate sacrifice
saved the nation from
the threat of French
invasion.

mounted with acid free museum quality ivory board and decorated with hand drawn keylines. The stylish gilded frame has been specially selected to suit almost any setting and is constructed to order by a master craftsman. On the reverse of each picture is a hand numbered and signed certificate of authentication and provenance from The National Maritime Museum.

An outstanding offer to collectors

Request a prospectus now and we will immediately reserve a lithograph and allocate a limited edition number in your name for 14 days without obligation. This will give you the opportunity to study the detailed prospectus at leisure. The publishers then invite you to apply for this edition at the special collectors' price of £195 -

a saving of £39 when you order and pay in full. Alternatively you may subscribe to the edition in 12 convenient monthly instalments of just £19.50.

Free archive copy of The Times

When you order The Battle of Trafalgar framed lithograph, you will also be sent a superbly reproduced archive copy of The Times dated 7th November 1805, when news of Nelson's victory was relayed to the British people for the first time.

Simply complete the priority reservation form and post to the address shown, or call 01242 260261 now to request your prospectus and reserve the edition. Telephone Lines are open 24 hours.

Overseas enquiries are welcome and we are happy to quote for delivery anywhere in the world. **Send for your free colour prospectus now and reserve the edition for 14 days, entirely without obligation.**



The most gifted and patriotic artist of his day, J.M.W. Turner was chosen by King George IV to paint this epic sea battle.

PRIORITY RESERVATION FORM

Post to: The Battle of Trafalgar,
International Art Editions
FREEPOST GL1950, Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire GL52 6BR

I would like to inspect Turner's
Battle of Trafalgar more fully.

Please send me a free Prospectus now, together with
details of how to order.

I understand that you will reserve the edition in my name
without obligation for 14 days, so that I may study the
Prospectus in detail.

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) Initial _____

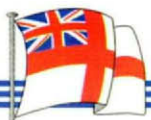
Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

International Art Editions, Saxon House, Saxon Way, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL52 6QX

BATR62



We're proud of what we build here

If you'd like to find out more about why we are in such demand, please phone for an individual appointment. You will be made most welcome. We award service bursaries.



LOMOND SCHOOL
Helensburgh

10 Stafford Street,
Helensburgh,
Dunbartonshire
G84 9JX.
Telephone:
(01436) 672476.

David McKegney, Sixth Form pupil.

Robert McDonald, Junior One pupil.

ST JOHN'S SCHOOL, SIDMOUTH

Boys & Girls 2 to 13+
"A Proven track record"
(Sunday Times)

Our realistic costs reflect our respect for family values.

- only £2,587 per term -
family care and attention where each
individual counts

Write or ring for details to: St. John's School, Broadway,
Sidmouth, Devon, EX10 8RG.
Tel 01395 513984, Fax 01395 514539

St John's is a charity No. 274864 and exists to provide education for children

THE DUKE OF YORK'S ROYAL MILITARY SCHOOL DOVER

- ♦ For the sons and daughters of members and retired members of the RN/RM, RAF and British Army
- ♦ 490 pupils 11+ to 18 all boarders, 110 Sixth Formers
- ♦ Caring family atmosphere
- ♦ Pupil: Teacher ratio 10: 1. Average class size 16
- ♦ Excellent record in GCSE, GCE A Level, AGNVQ and in the numbers entering university
- ♦ Subsidised fees of £300 per term whether serving or retired
- ♦ Ask about the value added dimension to our academic work.



Further enquires to:
Headmaster - The Duke of York's School
Dover CT15 5EQ
Phone: (01304) 245024

To advertise in our next **Navy News**
EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT
contact **Debbie Stirman** on 01705 725062 NOW!

ADVERTISING RATES

(excl. VAT) as effective
from 1st April 98

DISPLAY

Full Page £2,100
Half Page £1,160
Quarter Page £655
S.c.c. £13

CLASSIFIED

Lineage 85p per word
Trade minimum 30wds.
For Sale, Minimum ...10wds.
Box number £3

PENFRIENDS

See details on page8

Discounts, Colour Rates,
Technical Details available
on request.

Tel: 01705 724226
for a full Media Pack



www.navynews.co.uk
EXPECTED TIME OF ARRIVAL
1st NOVEMBER 1999

IT'S THE ONE YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR! CALENDAR 2000

VISIONS OF A FUTURISTIC NAVY ALONGSIDE THE PRESENT DAY FLEET

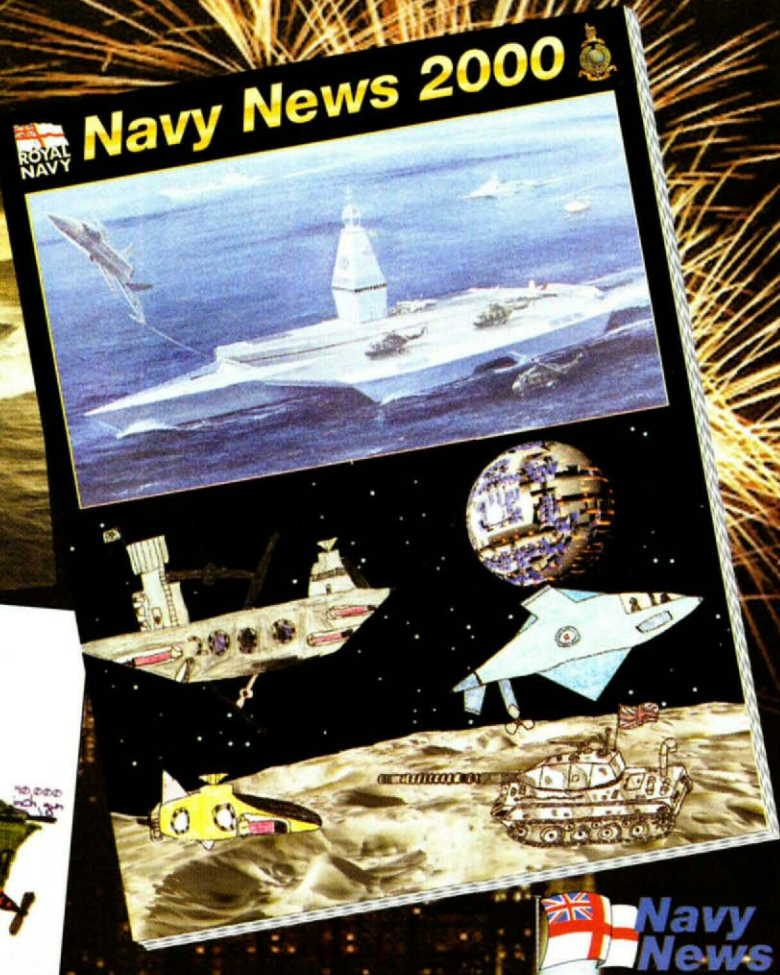
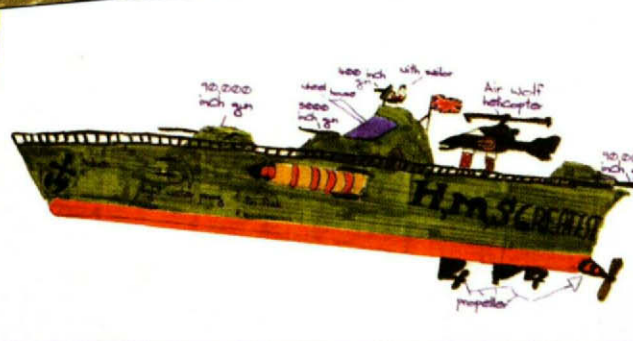
We have captured the skill and imagination of our younger readers to produce the Year 2000 Calendar. Their drawings are reproduced throughout and indicate their idea of a Futuristic Navy. This makes our Calendar 2000 unique to any other we have produced.

Size approx: 37cm x 28.5cm

£6.00 UK

£6.75 Surface Mail Overseas

(AVAILABLE NOW)



Write to: The Business Manager, Navy News, HMS Nelson, Portsmouth, PO1 3HH

Cheques payable to Navy News to accompany orders. For orders outside the UK payment can be made by Cheque/International Money Order in £ Sterling and drawn on UK bank or for payment by credit card/switch, UK & Abroad, please use the coupon on page 4.

DEMAND IS HUGE!
- ORDERS NOW BEING TAKEN...



Miscellaneous



BUSINESS for SALE

Retiring from the Service? Want to work for yourself?

A Guesthouse in Cornwall may be your ideal business. 9 Rooms, flat, owners flat, car park, garaged, licensed, immaculate. AA & ETB 3 diamonds



FREEHOLD £205,000
Tel 01579 342472

MARINE ARTIST ANY SHIP, SCENE OR SETTING PROFESSIONALLY PORTRAYED

IAN FRASER (ex RN)
37A Chilwell Road
Beeston, Nottingham NG9 1EH

FRAMED COLOUR PRINTS From own original paintings



Over 400 available
Print laminated with canvas texture film
to resemble an original oil painting
size 8"x16" for £35 plus P&P
For list please send SAE to:
SEART, 5 THE CHASE, GOSPORT,
HANTS PO12 3TD

YOUR SHIP
Superbly drawn
& painted, Details
sample + quote.
ASSIE JONES
0151-727
3661

135 Ashbourne Rd,
Liverpool L17 9AA

LOST!

LOST MEDALS
REPLACED IN RECORD TIME

FULL SIZE & MINIATURE
3 DAY MOUNTING SERVICE
WRITE OR PHONE FOR QUOTATION
RAYMOND D. HOLDICH
Trafalgar Square Collectors Centre
7 Whitcomb Street
London WC2H 7HA
TEL 0171-930 1979
FAX 0171-930 1152
e-mail: rdhmedals@aol.com

PRINTING & EMBROIDERY
POLOS SWEATS FLEECES BADGES T-SHIRTS

- QUALITY SERVICE & FLEXIBILITY
- FULL IN-HOUSE DESIGN SERVICE
- LARGE ORDERS / SMALL ORDERS
- FAST TURNAROUND

0800 137948
Kingfisher Leisurewear
email: kingfisherleisurewear@diol.pipex.com
www.kingfisher-leisurewear.co.uk
RNA APPROVAL FOR USE OF OFFICIAL LOGO

Navy News Own Products
If you are not satisfied with one of our own products sold through this paper, simply return it to us unused within 14 days and we will replace it free of charge or issue a full refund (including postage)
This guarantee does not affect your statutory rights

THE EASTERN SERVICE MEDAL

This superb die-struck commemorative medal is available in Full Size & Miniature to all who served in the Near Middle & Far East.

Send s.a.e. for your application form today.

DPS Awards, P.O. Box 6961
Bromsgrove, B61 8LA

PURE NOSTALGIA

Individually hand-built wateline presentation model of your ship, perhaps long gone but never forgotten.

Contact for further details:

Ron Hughes,
Model Shipwright,
Feldemore, Bacton, Stowmarket
Suffolk, IP14 4LF
01449 781741

EMBROIDERED

Sweaters, Sweatshirts
Polo shirts, Badges
PRINTED

Teeshirts, Sweatshirts,
Badges, Coffee mugs

And lots more, all from one supplier
No artwork or setting up costs on majority of goods
High quality, competitive prices, prompt delivery.

BFPO tax-free service

Send for our new price list:

Reynold Sports
51/52, High Street, Lincoln, LN5 8AP
Tel: 01522 513333
Fax: 01522 530383

EMBROIDERED LEISUREWEAR

Wide range of quality garments.
Low minimum order. Full colour brochure.
Caps & printed garments also available

Banana Moon Workshop
48 Old Lane,
Birkenshaw,
Bradford BD11 2JX

Tel: 01274 688103
Fax: 01274 652524
www.banana.legend.uk.com

PRINTED LEISUREWEAR T's - SWEATS - CAPS ETC

- HIGHEST QUALITY
- BEST PRICES
- FREE ADVICE/QUOTES
- PROMPT SERVICE
- ESTABLISHED 12 YEARS
- ACCESS & VISA

THE WEARHOUSE
Tel/Fax 01208815522

EMBROIDERED BADGES CUMMERBUNDS, TIES

Cummerbunds - Silk £25, Polyester £17.50
Cap Ties, Sweatshirts, Printed T-shirts
and Baseball Caps All made to order.

Ross Art Embroidery
7 Wall Road, Gwinear,
Hayle, Cornwall TR27 5HA.
Tel/Fax: 01736 850724

REGIMENTAL SUPPLIES (N)

PO BOX 45
BECKENHAM
KENT
BR3 1GJ
Tel: 0181 325 5193
Medals - full size and miniature,
mounted for wear.
Blazer badges, buttons, ties
and heraldic wall plaques

Kids Time

Blue watch with digital timing.

£4.99 each U.K.
£5.25 each surface mail overseas

Business Manager, Navy News,
HMS Nelson, Queen Street,
Portsmouth PO1 3HH
Tel: 01705 733558

REGIMENTAL TIES, blazer
Badges, Cuff-Links, Buttons,
Medals, Cap Badges, Militaria.
£2.00 for list. Cairncross (Dep. NN),
31, Belle Vue St., Filey, N. Yorks
YO14 9HU.

Exquisite jewellery handmade in Cornwall

Phone/fax your order
or send cheque, P/O
or credit card details
with expiry date to:

**Tell someone
you miss them...**

Tombodama, School Hill,
Coverack, Helston, Cornwall,
TR12 6SA, UK.
tel & fax +44 (0) 1326 280 348
julia.schofield@virgin.net

Liquid silver necklace with
lampwork beads £29.50

Earrings
on silver
earwires
£14.50

Add p+p+insurance
(£2.00 UK, £3.00 elsewhere)

Brochure available

Send to any address
with a personal message

Isis Lingerie

Stuck for gift ideas for
the lady in your life?

Why not surprise her with a subscription to *Isis Lingerie*?
Each month we send your loved one a matching set -
hand gift-wrapped with a personal message.
Phone or fax for further details and a free colour brochure.

Isis Lingerie
PO Box 10595, London SW1V 4ZH
Tel: 0171-834 8899 Fax: 0171-834 8833
The Monthly Gift Lingerie People

**NEW Authentic
Colour Fleet Badges
on Pewter Hipflasks**

Also high quality tankards, goblets,
hipflask engraved with ships crest,
badges & logos to your own design.

• CALL FOR FREE CATALOGUE •

GLOSSOPS TROPHIES
86 Broad Street, Sheffield S2 5TG
Tel: 0114 276 5554 Fax: 0114 275 0377

**WORCESTERSHIRE
MEDAL SERVICE LTD**

56 Broad Street, Sidemore, Bromsgrove, Worcs B61 8LL.
Tel: (01527) 835375 or Fax: (01527) 576798

Specialists in Ribbons, Full Size & Miniature Medals and
Medal Mounting either for wear or display.

Send SAE or call for comprehensive price list of
Full Size & Miniature Medals.
Credit card orders accepted by phone or fax.
UK customers please add 17.5% VAT

LOST YOUR MEDALS?

WE CAN REPLACE THEM NOW - WW1 TO PRESENT DAY
IN FULL SIZE AND MINIATURE
WE MOUNT MEDALS TO WEAR - COURT OR SWING STYLE
PROFESSIONALLY SEWN
AVAILABLE NOW THE GENERAL SERVICE CROSS,
VOLUNTARY SERVICE AND MARITIME SERVICE MEDAL
SAE FOR DETAILS & REPLACEMENT MEDALS LIST

TOAD HALL MEDALS
NEWTON FERRERS. Nr PLYMOUTH. DEVON. PL8 1DH.
Tel 01752 872672. Fax 01752 872723.
e-mail th.medals@virgin.net

**FRAME YOUR OWN
MEDALS...**

NICELY PACKAGED
IDEAL GIFT

viewing
width

in minutes, and remove them to wear in seconds. Easy
quick assembly. 5 sizes available. Viewing widths
are: (see picture) 55mm - 105mm - 155mm - 205mm -
240mm at a cost of £13.95 - £17.50 - £18.50 - £20.00
and £21.50 respectively. Measure across your medals
and order the size to suit. Prices include mainland postage, add £2 for
Ireland/Channel Islands and £5 for overseas. Cheques/postal orders and
credit card payments to: The Picture Framer, 13 Norfolk Street, Sunderland
SR1 1EA Tel/Fax 0191 5640811

**Joys Roses
& Flowers**

Flowers sent to any
address in U.K. or N.I.
for all occasions -
Someone some where is waiting to hear from you.

Bouquet - Roses - 12 Red or Pink or Yellow £13.85
Bouquet - Roses - 24 Red or Pink or Yellow £18.50
Bouquet - Carnations - Mixed/Pink/Yellow, 12 Blooms £12.50
Bouquet - Roses/Carnations/Freesia, 30 Blooms £17.50
Bouquet - Freesia & Farns, 40 Blooms £14.75
Bouquet - Roses/Sp. Cars/Carnations & Freesia etc. 50 Blms £22.50

All Credit Cards Accepted (Please incl. exp. date or issue number). Please make Cheques payable to
Joys Roses & Flowers, Flamingo, St Sampsons, Guernsey, C.I. GY2 4WB
Tel: 01481 246708 Fax: 01481 243406

**Wentworth
the Pewterers**
FORMERLY CORIVO PRODUCTS

High quality pewter tankards,
hip flasks, goblets, plates and
much more. Engraved with
Ship's Crests, Badges and
Logo's to your own designs.
Competitive prices.
Full colour brochure.

A R WENTWORTH (SHEFFIELD) LTD
Tankard House, 25 Leadmill Road, Sheffield S1 3JA
Tel: 0114 272 5676 Fax: 0114 272 6651

GREENBURGH'S
(THE ORIGINAL NAVAL TAILORS)

WALL PLAQUES

HAND PAINTED ON WOOD BASE ANY DESIGN
£24.00 + £1.50 UK POSTAGE
QUANTITY DISCOUNTS FOR SIX OR MORE

BADGES WIRE OR SILK, ANY DESIGN OR QUANTITY
TIES CLUB, REGIMENTAL OR YOUR OWN DESIGN
MEDALS MIN OR FULL SIZE (STATE REQUIREMENTS)

Send SAE for quotes and price list

49 DEREK AVENUE, HOVE, SUSSEX
BN3 4PE. TEL/FAX: (01273) 416138

**WALL SHIELDS OF
ROYAL NAVY SHIPS**

Hand painted on wooden base 6in x 7in
£24.50 + £1.40 UK Postage.
REDUCED PRICES given for orders of 6 or more
SPECIAL PRICES given for 10, 25, 50 and 100
CRESTED TIES TO YOUR OWN SPECIAL DESIGN
(minimum 36)

Specialist experience over 85 years

C.H. MUNDAY LTD
Oxford House, 8 St Johns Road
St Johns, Woking, Surrey GU21 1SE
Telephone: 01483 771588 Fax: 01483 756627

MINIATURE MEDALS

Miniature and full-sized medals. Supplied
and mounted in ordinary and court-style.
★ Wire blazer badges ★ Mess kit badges
★ Display cases, medal ribbon, mounting
bars, ribbon bars, etc.

Send for comprehensive catalogue to the
Medal Specialists (26p stamp appreciated).

MINIATURE MEDALS (NN)
PO BOX 4
HINCKLEY
LEICESTERSHIRE
LE10 3ZT
Telephone: (01455) 239262

**TIES, BADGES &
PLAQUES**

By Mail Order
SHIPS/SQUADRONS/
REGIMENTS/CLUB
HM Services and custom-made for Clubs,
Bands, Choirs, etc.
Blazer buttons, medals, ribbons &
sundries

Please send SAE for lists
THE HERALDIC CO. (GB) NN
Over Briar, Beech Well Lane,
Edge End, Coleford, Glos. GL16 7HA
Tel/Fax: 01594 832200

GOLD WIRE BADGE CO

Gold Wire Blazer Badges-all ships ... £10.00
White Gauntlets ... £20.00
Standard Carriers ... £25.00
Brass Inserts ... £12.00
White Cotton Gloves ... £3.50
Navy/Black Berets 6 1/2 - 8 ... £7.00
Any Association Wire Beret Badge ... £4.50
R.N. & Naval Division Ties ... £8.55
RN Bow Ties ... £8.55
Black Clip-on Ties ... £4.50
RN Buttons - Large £1.60, Small ... £1.50
RNA/RM Ladies sashes ... £12.00
Pace Slides ... £60.00
W.R.N.S Style Tricorn Hats ... £20.00

Embroidered Garments
Winter Blouses, Black/Navy
RNA/RM/FAA/FAA Assn ... £20.00
navy blue V-neck Jumpers :
RNA/RM/FAA/FAA Assn ... £12.00
White Pilot Shirts:
RNA/RM/RNPSA/FAA/FAA Assn ... £11.75
Sweatshirts Navy, Grey, FAA/FAA Assn £14.50

Officers Cap Badges ... £11.00
Gold Sword Knot ... £23.00
Leather Sword Belts ... £70.00
Sword Bags ... £30.00

A CD ROM TITLED "BRITISH MILITARY
BADGES" CONTAINING OVER 2,500
ILLUSTRATIONS IS NOW AVAILABLE
PRICED AT £39.95
all prices include P&P
11, Dalehead Drive, Shaw, Oldham, Lancs. OL28TJ
Tel/Fax: 01706 846648
www.thegoldwirebadge.co.uk
E-mail: robroy@lineone.net

HMS RFA & RNA WALL SHIELDS
Handmade to order

6in x 7 1/2

£21.20* inc UK postage
* add £1.45 for optional motto/title scroll
Up to 40% discount with quantity orders
C&A BEHARRELL
187, Victoria Avenue, Hull, HU5 3EF
Tel/Fax: 01482 213398
Please send SAE for Brochure

FLEET CRESTS

Absolutely any Royal Navy
ships crest, beautifully hand
painted & mounted by military
artist Adrian George

Each framed crest is priced £30.00 plus £2.50 post
& packaging. Cheques or Postal Orders should be
made payable to Adrian George. Please allow 28
days for delivery on receipt of payment

CONTACT FLEET CRESTS ON : 01273 565263

**TERRANE
PROMOTIONS**
Embroidery Manufacturers & Screen Printers

COME TO THE MANUFACTURERS
& CUT OUT THE MIDDLE MAN!!
WE MAKE EMBROIDERED BADGES,
CRESTS & GARMENTS. WE PRINT
STICKERS, T-SHIRTS, SWEATSHIRTS.
WE ARE THE BIGGEST PRODUCERS
OF PERSONALISED COFFEE MUGS
IN EUROPE, AND SUPPLY MOST OF
THE WORLD'S ARMED FORCES.
TOP QUALITY, 1st CLASS SERVICE,
UNBEATABLE VALUE!!
CALL NOW FOR DETAILS & PRICES.

**TERRANE PROMOTIONS. TERRANE HOUSE,
WHISBY WAY IND EST. LINCOLN LN6 3LQ**
TEL: (01522) 697000 / FAX: (01522) 697154

**FLAGS, BUNTING & TABLE
FLAGS.** Free colour brochure
including 21st Century Flag and
National Flags 5ft x 3ft - £7.99 each
p+p £1 any amount. Enquire
for custom-made flags. Elpees
Entertainments. 271 High Street,
Orpington, Kent BR6 0NW
Tel: 01689 822606 Fax: 01689
817648

TRACING SERVICE lost contact
with friends or relatives? Phone
Derek on 0115 9763595 or Mobile
07957 925123. Or write with details
to: D Hutchby, Enquiry Agency,
2 Deepdene Way, Bells Lane Estate,
Nottingham NG8 6BX



Recruitment & Business Opportunities



Lincoln in the West Country

Trainee consultant

Over the past few years the financial services industry has experienced a great deal of change. One of the outcomes has been a large decrease in the number of people working within the sector.

Lincoln in the West Country, however, opened in April 1998 and has since grown to be a very successful operation. The vast majority of this growth has occurred as a result of our ability to attract industry qualified personnel.

We are now looking to appoint **one or two trainee consultants** who have no previous experience in the industry.

Applicants should be able to demonstrate a successful track record, and should be over 25. You will receive comprehensive training to FPC level. An excellent remuneration package, (our career establishment plan) which is not commission only, is available.

Please forward in the first instance, your CV to: Mr S Shaw, Regional Manager, Lincoln, 1st Floor, Hyde Park House, Mutley Plain, Plymouth PL4 6LF



002589a - 8/99

Member of Lincoln Financial Group

BRISTOW HELICOPTERS LTD

Army Air Corps Centre, Middle Wallop Stockbridge, Hampshire SO20 8DY

Tel: 01980 674314 Fax: 01264 782439

Immediate vacancies exist for
LYNX AIRFRAME/ENGINE FITTERS
£16,000 - £17,400 pa

to work in 1st and 2nd line maintenance at the
School of Army aviation, Middle Wallop

Employment will involve shift and day work routines, some weekend commitments and periods of maintenance support away from base. The company offers 20 days annual leave rising to 25 days after 4 years, 8 days public holidays, contributory pension scheme, accident and life assurance benefits and staff travel discounts.

Applicants should write or fax the Engineering Manager, giving full details of aircraft experience and qualifications quoting Ref: N 199

All applicants will be reviewed and only those considered suitable will be contacted.

CRUISE THE WORLD

Work on luxury cruise ships. Have fun & adventure. Earn up to £3,600 pm tax free. Positions at all levels. For FREE information pack send TWO S.A.E. to:

Transitions Overseas
(Ref.NN)

PO Box 21832
London SW6 5WE

CV SERVICE

We present your military experience clearly and professionally for your new career. Complete content, structure, design and printing service. Choice of quality papers and superb designs.
Telephone (01865) 723962

Are you
looking for a
new career
with job
satisfaction?

FOR DETAILS
CALL FREE

Then look at becoming a
**driving
instructor...**
earn up to £400pw + car

if the idea of working as a self-employed driving instructor appeals to you, then call for more information about our approved instructor training course.

CENTRAL INSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION
0800 70 7000

Advertise in these pages and reach one of the most highly trained and best disciplined work forces in the world. Call Debbie or Jane on

THE SAME DAY C.V. COMPANY

Ready to move on?
Ring

01753 890243

Job Search & CVs
for all Ranks of
Service Personnel



POLICE RECRUITMENT

DEVELOP THE SKILLS
THE POLICE ASSESS.
HOME STUDY PROGRAMME
New Leaf Education
Tel: 01302 859954
PO Box 460, DONCASTER DN4 9XL

OIL RIGS

The Essential Guide -
FOR ANYONE WHO IS INTERESTED IN
WORK OFFSHORE ON OIL RIGS AND
DOESN'T KNOW WHERE TO START.
PACKED FULL OF ALL THE
INFORMATION YOU WILL EVER NEED
ABOUT OIL RIGS.
• BOOKS TODAY •
01253 869808
8 Clegg Ave, Thornton-Cleveleys,
Lancs. FY5 1BJ, U.K.

Leaving the service?

Commencing a new career as a
contractor or business person,
or investing into a company.
Study the options provided by the
Sovereign Group of companies
www.sovereign-corporate.co.uk
or telephone Mark for information
0151 236 9788.
FREE UK Companies, FREE Offshore
Companies, FREE Internet Services,
Contract Services,
Company Searches, (Charged for)

LEARN WHILE YOU SERVE!

Home study Sales Training Course
will help prepare you for Civvy
Street. Industry Recognition,
Completion Certificate. Professional
selling skills. Discount for service
personnel. Call 01506 857188



World CHALLENGE
EXPEDITIONS

EXPEDITION LEADERS REQUIRED

Would you like to lead a 4 week overseas educational
expedition of 16-18yr olds to South America, Africa or Asia?

Ideally, you will be at least 24 years old with developing world expedition
experience (mountain or jungle) and have successfully completed a
MLTB(Summer) Assessment.

EXPEDITION FEES AND EXPENSES PAID

Summer 2000: Apply now for your free place on the October/December
World Challenge Expeditions Training Courses.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION & AN APPLICATION FORM
CALL 0181 961 1122 TODAY!
(email: jhenry@world-challenge.co.uk)



THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF MILITARY ENGINEERING, CHATHAM, KENT

has vacancies for

CIVILIAN INSTRUCTIONAL OFFICERS

in the following disciplines:

DRAUGHTSMEN - CIVIL AND ARCHITECTURAL

DRAUGHTSMEN - ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ELECTRICIANS

FITTERS - PLANT FITTERS - AIR CONDITIONING AND REFRIGERATION

Europe's leading artisan training centre, The Royal School of Military Engineering, Chatham, Kent requires qualified and experienced personnel as Civilian Instructional Officers to train Royal Engineer soldiers in a variety of artisan trades listed above. Conditions of work are excellent and are summarised as follows;

SALARY: Up to £19,812 per annum subject to qualifications and experience, and linked to an annual performance pay award scheme with an excellent pension scheme. A pay award of up to 4.7% is pending. An attractive re-location package may also be available for those who qualify.

TRAINING: Full instructional training is provided. Staff are encouraged to improve their qualifications and pursue personal development. This may attract a level of financial support and is linked to a structured career path as part of our commitment to staff. The Royal School of Military Engineering is an accredited Employer in People.

WORKING HOURS: Working hours are 8.00 a.m. until 4.30 p.m. daily from Mon-Fri, with one hour for lunch.

LEAVE: 25-30 days annual leave on entry plus 10 1/2 days public/privilege holidays.

FACILITIES: The School offers superb working facilities and an excellent working environment with new and modernised workshops. There are a wide range of sports facilities and a new fitness centre, which is also open to families. The School also offers an on-site creche/nursery.

HEALTH CARE: Option available for membership of healthcare scheme.

For more information on the above positions and the qualifications required, and the Royal School of Military Engineering in general, telephone Mr John Parry on 01634 822820

All applicants will be given a chance to visit the School prior to any formal selection process. This will enable them to view the School's facilities and speak with instructors about the responsibilities of the post.

There is an ongoing recruitment drive as part of the Strategic Defence Review and further jobs will be available throughout the next twelve month.

The MoD is an Equal Opportunities employer and welcomes applications from suitably qualified individuals, irrespective of racial origin, gender or disability.

FLS Aerospace Limited

The prospect of joining FLS Aerospace is an exciting one. Already a leading independent provider of full support maintenance services to the airline industry, FLS aim to be a world leader.

Operating from London Gatwick, London Stansted, London Luton and Manchester airports, we now have vacancies for the following:

LICENSED ENGINEERS

COMMERCIAL PERSONNEL

WIDE RANGING ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF MECHANICAL / AVIONIC WORKSHOP MECHANICS

MECHANICAL: Engine Shop / Hydraulic Shop / Sheet Metal
AVIONIC: Instrument Shop / Radio Shop / Electrical Shop

Applications from qualified engineers welcomed. Experience in Aerospace advantageous, but appropriate training will be provided where necessary.

This is an outstanding opportunity to join a growing organisation that offers an attractive remuneration package including a competitive salary, excellent benefits and sound prospects for career advancement.

Please apply in writing enclosing CV to Guy Whittaker,
Senior Personnel Officer, FLS Aerospace Limited, Long Border Road,
London - Stansted Airport, Essex CM24 1RE

For Company information see our website at:-
www.FLSAerospace.com
E-mail: guyw@flsaerospace.com Fax No: 01279 680085



Deputy Harbour Master

Rye, East Sussex

£18,547 - £24,850

The primary objective of the Environment Agency is to protect and enhance the environment of England and Wales. With wide ranging responsibilities covering pollution prevention and control, water resources, flood defence, conservation, fisheries, navigation and recreation, we are one of the most powerful environmental regulators in the world.

The Harbour of Rye, under the control of the Environment Agency, is a small busy harbour on the South coast. It has a mixture of commercial, leisure and fishing activities. The Agency is dedicated to developing the harbour facilities and enhancing the success of the operation.

You will be responsible for assisting the Harbour Master to control the navigation and berthing of all vessels and maintain Harbour discipline with reference to local bylaws and applicable marine legislation. This will involve you in the monitoring of harbour structures, navigation aids, marks, lights and other facilities, together with maintaining records within the harbour administration.

The Region operates a no smoking policy.
The Environment Agency is committed to
achieving Equal Opportunities.

You should possess a Class 1 Certificate of Competency or equivalent and be computer literate. In keeping with the traditional role of harbour workings, the hours are varied and include weekend attendance. In conjunction with the Harbour Master, you will ensure adequate cover during some day and night tides especially during the busy summer cruising season and you will be expected to live in Agency accommodation or within easy reach of the Harbour.

For more information please contact Captain Carl Bagwell on 01797 225225. For a job description and application form please call Yvonne Mason on 01732 223208. Completed forms should be returned to her at Environment Agency, Orchard House, Endeavour Park, London Road, Addington, West Malling, Kent ME19 5SH. Closing date for receipt of applications is 15 October 1999. Previous applicants need not re-apply as they will be considered in conjunction with replies to this advertisement.



ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY

Accommodation

EXECUTIVE HOMES
LARGE & SMALL HOMES Let with care
TO LET

We let and manage large & small homes in and around Portsmouth
Web Site: www.executive-homes.com
Phone for details **01705 585577**

PLYMOUTH MOUNTBATTEN
3 Crowns commended
Tel: 01752 563843
Fax: 01752 606014
Royal Fleet Club & Naval Base within walking distance.
* All Rooms CTV, Tea/Coffee & Phones.
* Mainly En Suite. * Free Parking
* Bar * Credit Cards Accepted
52, Exmouth Road, Stoke, Plymouth, PL1 4QH

PLYMOUTH HOE
Small friendly Guest House overlooking the Hoe and Seaford.
All rooms CTV, Tea/Coffee, C.H. Mostly ensuite. Sky T.V. Lounge. Parking. Courtesy pick up from Stations. Credit cards accepted. From £28 double £15 single.
Tel: 01752 660675
Edgcombe Guest House
50 Pier St, West Hoe, Plymouth PL1 3BT

Hampshire Court Hotel

29/31 Hampshire Terrace, Southsea PO1 2QF

Delightful listed building, 1823. Central for seafront, stations, city centre, ferry ports etc. Private car parking
Tea/coffee making facilities, colour TVs in all rooms + full English breakfast

Prices from £16 per person per night

Telephone (01705) 823522

Garian House Holiday Flatlets

Self-catering flatlets, near sea and shops. Fully equipped. Colour TV, fridge, cooker, linen, etc. Ideal for a visit by family or girl friend.

Charge per person	WEEKLY JULY & AUGUST	WEEKLY JUNE & SEPTEMBER	OTHER MONTHS	Nightly (Out of Season)
	£80	£70	£50	£10

MINIMUM 2 PERSONS OR CHARGE FOR
ALL WITH OWN BATHROOM AND TOILET
Guests, who anticipate a late arrival should inform the management before 2pm
Children 12 years or under - HALF PRICE if sleeping in the same room as adults.
BOOKINGS ARE SATURDAY TO SATURDAY ONLY DURING MAY - OCTOBER.
MR CURTIS, 70 FESTING GROVE, SOUTHSEA, PORTSMOUTH, HANTS.
TELEPHONE: 01705-733581 MOBILE: 0802-938559



Province Of Natal Hotel

5, Greenhill, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 7SR

1999 - the 50th Anniversary year

The Hotel was a gift after World War 2
Its purpose is to provide holidays and short breaks for all serving and ex-serving RN, RM, WRNS or QARNNS personnel and their reservists, families and close relatives.

- *50 yards from beach, safe swimming and fine sands.
- *Half a mile from the shops and station.
- *All rooms en-suite with tea and coffee facilities and colour TV
- *Lift to all floors *Residents bar *Children and Pets welcome
- *Double, Twin and Family rooms available
- *We cater for small ships re-unions

Group booking discounts available

For more information Tel: 01305 784108 or Fax: 01305 770575

Registered Charity No 226446

PLYMOUTH Haddington House Apartments
Spacious self catering holiday apartments set within a Victorian House built in 1873.
Tastefully decorated to a high standard with fully equipped kitchens, shower/bathroom, private parking and garden.
From £125 per week, suitable for holidays/reunions and groups up to 16 people
Discounts for RNA members - contact your secretary for details
FOR A COLOUR BROCHURE CALL 01752-767730

PLYMOUTH Osmond Guest House
42 Pier Street, West Hoe
Tel: 01752 229705
Bed and Breakfast from £14-£18.00
Seafront. Courtesy pick-up from stations. 4 poster bed. All rooms CTV. Tea/Coffee making.
Most En-suite. Parking.

THE ELMS Guest House
48 Victoria Road South, Southsea
A small, friendly, family run Guest House offering B&B (overnight or weekly rates).
Close to Naval base, station, shops and nightlife. Colour TV, tea/coffee facilities in all rooms. All rooms en-suite & air conditioned. Own keys, limited parking.
Paddy and John (Joe) Erskine
Tel / Fax Portsmouth (01705) 823924
E-Mail: TheElmsGH@aol.com

GOSPORT 'CHERRY TREES'
15, Linden Grove, Alverstoke. ETB 1 crown. Family run guest house. All rooms H/C, tea making. English breakfast, children welcome. Close harbour, Haslar, Dolphin, Sultan. £14 p.p.n. Lin or Steve Gell, Tel: 01705 521543.

THE GLADYER INN

The Place to stay in Rosyth

Within easy walking distance of Dockyard
Karaoke, Jukebox, Pool, Darts, Live Entertainment
PUBLIC BAR • LOUNGE • FUNCTION SUITE
21 twin-double rooms all en suite. Reasonable rates
Tel: 01383 419977
Fax: 01383 411728

THE GRAND HOTEL Plymouth

Accommodation & Full English Breakfast

Peak Season (April-October)

£27.50 per person per night in a double/twin

Special Discounted Rates offered for 1 night or more between Thursday - Sunday

Built in 1879 with 77 bedrooms and conveniently situated on Plymouth Hoe



Telephone: (01752) 661195

ETB 5 Crowns commended



PORTSMOUTH EVERLEY GUEST HOUSE

01705 731001

OWN KEYS - NO RESTRICTIONS
H/C, TEA/COFFEE, CTV & SKY TV ALL ROOMS
ENSUITE AND FAMILY ROOMS - COTS
14TH YEAR SAME OWNERS

SPECIAL RATES FOR NAVY NEWS READERS

33, FESTING ROAD, SOUTHSEA, HANTS. PO4 ONG

Rock Garden Hotel, Southsea

Special Winter Breaks

For Naval Personnel
£32 per room (one or two persons)

Central for all Southsea amenities and entertainments. Quality en-suite bedrooms, Satellite TV's all rooms, tea/coffee facilities, lounge, private car park

★ Attractive Bar ★
★ Delightful restaurant ★

Clarence Road Southsea PO5 2LQ
Tel: 01705 833018

Imperial HOTEL
AA PLYMOUTH HOE RAC
★ Lockyer St, PL1 2QD ★
Telephone: (01752) 227311
Elegant Victorian Building with 22 Bedrooms - 5 Ground Floor. Nautical Flavour Cocktail Bar. Colour TV, Radio, Tea/Coffee/Telephone all rooms. Most en suite. Large car park. Navy News Readers 10% Accommodation Discount. All Credit Cards accepted.
Brochure & or Booking contact: Lt. Cdr. Alan Jones RNR (Ret'd)
"A 'Personal Service' Comfortable Hotel"

PLYMOUTH
Adjacent to the Hoe and Park. Friendly family run Guest House offers you a warm welcome and personal service. Facilities include residents lounge, TV, Radio, Tea/Coffee. Licensed. Central Heating all rooms. From £14pp. C.C's Accepted
Margaret and Peter Robinson
THE FIRS 13, Pier Street, West Hoe.
TEL: 01752 262870

SHROPSHIRE COURT GUEST HOUSE
33 Granada Road, Southsea
Friendly family run, 2 mins. from sea and entertainments. Close to ferries, Naval base, shops, etc. Own keys, Satellite TV all rooms, no restrictions, B&B. Holiday or short stay. Ample private car parking
Mrs A Richards
01705 731043

PORTSMOUTH LADY HAMILTON
Closest B+B to Naval Base, 100 yards from main gate, HMS Victory/Harry Rose/HMS Warrior/
Museums all on doorstep. 22 rooms most en-suite, singles/doubles/twins + family rooms, colour T.V, Tea+Coffee facilities, free house
Tel: 01705 870505

SUPPORT YOUR CLUB

All booking requirements in writing only, enclosing £5 deposit on each Family Room. Enclose a S.A.E. for your receipt.
ACCOMMODATION: For Service Personnel, their families and dependents plus ex. serving personnel and R.N.A. members who may be visiting the Plymouth area.
FUNCTIONS: We cater for all types of functions at very competitive prices. Ships Functions, Mess Parties, Wedding Receptions, Reunions of ships, past and present, we offer an ideal facility.

Royal Fleet Club

Morice Square, Devonport, Plymouth PL1 4PG
Telephone inquiries only Plymouth 01752 562723

ASK FOR QUOTATION, CONTACT THE MANAGER WITHOUT DELAY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

THE CANTERBURY BELL GUEST HOUSE
St. Simon Road, Southsea, Portsmouth
Flexible Accommodation offered 2 minutes walk away from the seafront.
All flats and rooms have own kitchen area with cooking facilities, own bathrooms with shower or bath, living area, central heating, satellite TV and private off road parking.
Rooms available £15 p.p. per night, flats are available for longer stays.
Ring or Fax Andy Scott on- 01705 351277 for more details

SOUTHSEA SOLENT HOTEL
14-17, SOUTH PARADE (Opposite the Pyramids)
TEL: 01705 875566
Special rates for all service personnel and Family £23.50p.p. in full ensuite double or twin-bedded room.
* 4 crown seafront hotel
* Colour TV, tea/coffee facilities
* Games rooms - full size snooker table
* Ideally situated near all local attractions and its nightlife.

Recruitment

WRA KICK START YOUR NEW CAREER DON'T HESITATE - INVESTIGATE
WRA Engineering Human Resources
Vacancies - Immediate & within 12 month of end of service
Safety, Reliability & Risk Assessment Engineers
Cat A & B Nuclear Watchkeepers
If you're the person we are looking for then send your CV NOW!
To WRA EHR, Prestleigh House, 38-40 Hendford, Yeovil, Somerset or simply call Brian or Antonia on (01935) 424865 / Fax (01935) 411755
E-mail: postmaster@wra.uk.com - www.wra.uk.com

Broaden Your Horizons...
The Royal Naval Reserve (RNR) comprises civilian volunteers (including ex-RN) to augment the Royal Navy in stretch, crisis, tension and war, at sea and ashore.



Reservists train at one of 13 Reserve Training Centres across UK and worldwide throughout the Fleet. The commitment is 2 weeks continuous training a year plus an evening most weeks and the occasional weekend.

Uniform is free and naval pay and travelling expenses are payable; in addition, most reservists qualify for an annual tax-free bonus (Bounty) - currently up to £1,050 pa.

Recruits are normally British or Commonwealth subjects, aged between 16 and 33 years (43 for ex-RN), male or female and physically fit.

For further information, contact your nearest Reserve Training Centre or Armed Forces Careers Office.
For details of these phone 0345 300123 (24hrs) or 01705 727676.

INTERNATIONAL COMPANY seeks male/females Ambitious, caring, honest. Secure future. For more information call DAVID HEADS ON (07071) 222123

FIVE ENTHUSIASTIC INDIVIDUALS required part-time or full-time, training available. Tel 01705 864 6554. <http://www.wrkfrmh.com/afj>



UNION JACK CLUB

THE SERVICES CLUB IN LONDON
Relax in style in your own Club in the heart of London

Single, Double and Family bedrooms, many with private bath/shower, WC and TV. Restaurants, Bars, Colour TV Rooms, Launderette, Reading and Writing Rooms, Conference areas.
Open to members of Allied and NATO Forces.
Officers welcome.

All modern facilities at modest rates.

Book your reservation through:

Reservations Office:
Union Jack Club
Sandell Street
London SE1 8UJ
Tel: 0171-928 4814
Fax: 0171-620 0565

The Victory Services Club

The Friendliest Welcome in the Armed Forces World

- Close by Marble Arch & Oxford Street
- Affordable room rates
- Choice of restaurants & bars
- Lounges, Library, TV & games room
- Function rooms for dinners, receptions, reunions & private parties

FREE MEMBERSHIP to serving personnel

For information & reservations contact us at:
63/79 SEYMOUR STREET, LONDON W2 2HF
Tel~0171 723 4474 Fax~0171 402 9496

FREE... Sony Watchman & Ericsson 628 Mobile Phone!



Navy Call



- FREE SONY WATCHMAN (RRP £129.99)
- FREE ERICSSON 628 (RRP £19.99)
- FREE CONNECTION WORTH £35.00
- FREE ACCESSORY PACK (CASE, CAR LEAD AND PERSONAL HANDS FREE) RRP £100.00
- LINE RENTAL FROM £12.99 INCLUDING £5.00 OF FREE CALLS EVERY MONTH
- FREE THREE MONTHS INSURANCE
- 30 DAY CONTRACT
- CALLS FROM 1p PER MINUTE

Open 7 days a week 9am - 9pm

This offer is only available to Naval personnel and family, because we have been dealing with Navy for some time now, we can guarantee connection for all naval staff

Terms & Conditions:-

Subject to signing a new contract and production of Naval ID Badge or relevant proof of address. Prices include VAT. Itemised Billing mandatory.

Mobile
Direct

Trafalgar Street, Plymouth PL4 9AE
Telephone 01752 262233



Motoring



More than a facelift for the Fiesta

A NEW look and a new sports model for Ford's top-selling Fiesta range are unveiled at this month's London Motor Show, ready for the new millennium.

Styled more along the lines of its coupe sister the Puma, the new Fiesta is a lot more than a facelift.

It is one of the first cars in its class to offer head-and-chest side airbag technology, there is also an improved version of Ford's continuously-variable automatic transmission, a fresh cabin with improved seats, and anti-lock brakes available across the range.

But the star of the line-up is the new Fiesta Zetec-S, shown here, echoing the motorsport heritage of previous Fiestas like the XR2. Its character has been strongly influenced by the success of the Puma which shares the same

chassis. Power comes from the 103PS 1.6-litre Zetec-SE engine first introduced last year on the Focus, with high torque for a 0-62mph acceleration time of 10.2 seconds.

This is matched to unique gear ratios and shorter final drive, plus Puma-style short-throw gearshift.

Larger brakes with ABS and traction control give better control while the standard power steering has been refined for even greater precision.

The cabin also features the supportive sports front seats from the Puma.

The new Fiesta will be available in three- and five-door body styles with five clearly differentiated levels of specification - Encore, Finesse, LX, Zetec and Ghia. Prices will be announced later this month.

E.M.C TAX FREE



FOR ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORT
CALL **EUROPE'S NO. 1 TAX FREE**
MILITARY SPECIALISTS!

WE NOW HAVE
SPECIAL DISCOUNTS
FOR ALL R.N.
PERSONNEL



With over 350 new and used cars in stock, we should have a car to meet your needs. With low rate forces finance and guaranteed finance acceptance, we can put you into your new or used car quickly and easily. Choose a new Vauxhall, Ford, Audi, Volkswagen, Seat, Lotus, Peugeot or Marcos, or a quality used car with 12 months warranty.

**WHATEVER YOU CHOOSE,
YOU CAN BUY WITH CONFIDENCE.**
FOR NEW CAR SALES CALL: WAYNE, SIMON OR SAM
PHONE: 01323 739675 FAX: 01323 734560
FOR USED CAR SALES CALL: MATT OR STEVE TESTER
FREEPHONE: 0800 010304 FAX: 01323 738504

Motoring

Better still – the new look Mazda MX-5



Think new – it may well save you money, says trade bible

INCREASINGLY tough emissions laws and more stringent MOT tests are hastening the scrapping of eight- to ten-year-old cars and the phasing-out of widespread availability of leaded petrol at the end of the year will speed up the process.

But there is good news for owners of older cars, according to motor trade bible *Glass's Guide* – new cars are much cheaper and more easily obtainable than in the past.

Cheaper finance, together with a host of after-market incentives such as free servicing or free insurance, are encouraging owners of older cars towards the new market.

There are also savings to be made with plenty of late-plate low mileage vehicles. Says *Glass's* editor Jeff Paterson: "More older car owners are realising that for a low initial outlay they can now afford cars in the newer end of the market."

"It is not inconceivable that owners of, say, a J-plate Escort can change to a new or nearly new Fiat Punto or similar supermini and still save money on running costs."

He warns that owners of cars that cannot be converted from running on four star petrol will either have to buy a new car or resort to buying a fuel additive at the end of the year.

"Don't make the mistake of thinking your unconverted car runs OK on unleaded."

AS THIS summer's sun blazed on well into September, there must be many drivers who looked more than a little wistfully on the open-top brigade while they stifled in their tin-tops, writes *Glynn Williams*

For some, the dream would be of an old MG, countered by practicality and lured by the badge into a new MGF.

But the sports car which revived the affordable wind-in-your-hair motoring boom was the Mazda MX-5, and a decade after its launch it's still going strong, in fact better than ever.

This year the agile little Mazda was given a revamp while keeping to the traditional format of front engine, rear-wheel-drive.

Distinguished by fixed rather than flip-up headlamps, saving weight and improving visibility and aerodynamics, the new model offers better performance and handling with a lower centre of gravity.

And the price is still highly competitive – you buy the 1.6-litre version for £15,685, which is more than £2,500 less than the entry MGF 1.8i.

Even the 1.8i MX-5 tested is a lot less, at £16,815, and while more

than a second quicker in the 0-60 sprint at under eight seconds and with a higher top speed of 127mph, it still has the same modest insurance grouping of 12.

One other interesting and attractive facet is that it retains its value better than the MGF, according to *What Car?* magazine.

But what you really want to know is how does it drive and the answer is brilliantly.

Sat low with your legs stretched out, it feels fast when pottering along, has excellent throttle response from the 140bhp engine, slick gearchange and taut handling.

The suspension has been refined for precise handling and the power steering is positive, with just 2.6 turns lock-to-lock.

For those who fear for partners or offspring in such a high performer, it is reassuring that crash protection exceeds all known forthcoming European collision standards.

Safety features range from impressive brakes to dual airbags, and in open-top mode the visibility is full circle.

When the roof's down – and

dropping it takes just seconds as you flip open two catches reached from the driver's seat and fling it back – an aeroboard cuts the breeze hustling around the footwells.

And if the weather suddenly changes, it takes only seconds to pull the soft-top back up and latch it shut.

Cocooned under the canvas, the rear quarter visibility is a little restricted but the cabin is snug and draught-free and the rear screen is heated glass, ready for the worst that winter can throw at you.

CAR FACTS

MODEL: Mazda MX-5 1.8i
PRICE: £16,815
ENGINE: 1.8-litre 16-valve twin cam producing 140bhp
TRANSMISSION: Rear-wheel-drive, five-speed manual change
PERFORMANCE: 0-62mph – 8 secs; top speed – 127mph
ECONOMY: 33.2mpg combined cycle
INSURANCE: Group 12

H.M. Forces only!

Warning! - don't get involved in high cost civilian finance schemes for people with inferior credit ratings - try...

Walker Car Sales

21-27 Copnor Road, Copnor, Portsmouth
Over 100 cars in stock from £200-£50,000
...10 minutes from HMS Nelson

Portsmouth's H.M. Forces finance specialists
Licensed Credit Brokers, details on request, subject to status



AUTOFINANCE Direct

PORTSMOUTH'S PREMIER 'GUARANTEED' FINANCE SPECIALIST

Refused a Loan?
**NEED A CAR?
CREDIT? GET IT!**

**ON A CAR
REGARDLESS OF HISTORY
80 CARS AVAILABLE**

MOTORCITY
Unit 14 Fitzherbert Spur, Farlington, Portsmouth
• 6 Months Free Tax for all Naval personnel •

01705-372222

if it's **PEUGEOT**
then it's got to be
RANGERS

UNBEATABLE
DEALS for
HMF'S serving
in the UK &
OVERSEAS



For either **UK TAX PAID**
or **TAX FREE EXPORT**
contact Peugeot's No.1 supplier to HM Forces.

For your **FREE INFORMATION PACK** on how to purchase a new Peugeot at **SPECIAL PRICES** call Colin Clubley on **UK 01980 653434** or write: Rangers TMS Ltd, FREEPOST, Bulford Rd, Durrington SP4 8BR

RANGERS
MILITARY SALES



Win a pair of tickets to The London Motor Show!

We have 10 pairs of tickets to give away, simply tell us which of our motoring advertisers operates from Cornwall, and put the answer, together with your name, address and telephone number on a post card and send it to:-

Motor Show Ticket Draw, Navy News, HMS Nelson, Queen Street, Portsmouth PO1 3HH.

by the 11th October 1999, (winners will be notified by the 13th October),
...to win a great day out!

Staff and relatives of Navy News are ineligible. The judges decision is final. No cash alternative.

THE LONDON
20th - 31st
MOTOR SHOW
EARLS COURT
20TH - 31ST
OCTOBER 1999

Tickets cost £12 for adults and £7 for children on the door but you can save yourself money and time by calling 0870 900 4499 and quoting 'Navy News' before 15th October. You will be able to take advantage of the special advance prices of £10 for adults and £6 for children, and walk straight into the show avoiding all the queues! (These tickets are valid any day from 21 - 31 October. Tickets for Fleet Preview Day on 20 October cost £20 per person.)

FREE MILITARY KIT, PERSONAL ACCIDENT OR DEATH COVER INSURANCE WITH OUR

FORCES direct Motor Insurance

- Preferential rates and exclusive schemes for H.M. Forces
- Immediate cover and monthly payment schemes
- Open 365 days a year.
- 8am-10pm weekdays, 9am-9pm weekends

0800 074 9402

Forces Direct Insurance Service Ltd, The Manor House, 10 St Margarets Green, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP4 2BS
Tel: (01473) 211951 Fax: (01473) 213898 email: sales@forcesdirect.co.uk

MILITARY ID ENTITLES YOU TO EXCEPTIONAL SAVINGS ON YOUR NEW CAR!



Our special Tax Free new car discounts on a wide range of makes are also available on many models for Tax Paid UK use, giving exceptional savings.

Of course, you will also receive the renowned NATOCARS' service and the same service is provided for our Guaranteed Quality Used Car Scheme

Can you afford not to buy from NATOCARS?

CALL US NOW! Tel: 01278 455555



NATOCARS
A Rewarding Experience

Natocars Ltd • Wylds Road • Bridgwater • Somerset • TA6 4BH
Tel: 01278 455555 • Fax: 01278 450396 • E-mail: sales@natocars.co.uk

DRIVE-IN CUTPRICE SERVICING, MOT & FAST FIT DISCOUNT CENTRE

IVAN'S GARAGE
CULDROSE, HELSTON

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED BY "THE GOOD GARAGE GUIDE '98"
FULL DIAGNOSTIC, ACCIDENT REPAIRS & SERVICING
FREE COLLECTION & DELIVERING SERVICE LOCALLY
Quality Pre-Owned cars from £250 FOR SALE

FREEPHONE 0800 0182135 NOW FOR UP TO AN EXTRA 20% DISCOUNT FOR ALL NAVAL PERSONAL ON MOT'S & SERVICING





CTCRM regain race title

HONOURS are even at seven all in the gruelling Lymstone to Poole endurance race after CTCRM took the honours from Royal Marines Poole.

The annual 88-mile race, along the South Coast Path, started in 1986 as a challenge between the Commando Training Centre at Lymstone and Poole.

Now open to all-comers, the race has four 22-mile legs over two days, each runners doing 44 miles, and Flag Officer Surface Flotilla was one of just three non-RM teams in the 12-team race.

Led by Cdr Campbell Christie, a veteran of eight races, the team consisted of Cdr Phil Burrell and Lts James Dean and Toby Ellison – and had the honour of being the only non-Royals team to complete the course, finishing sixth and thereby raising £300 for Mill Green Special Needs School in Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside.

Although conditions on the first leg were cool and misty, the sun soon emerged and with temperatures in the high 70s the runners found the steep slopes hard going – five teams failed to finish.

The event was won by CTC 'A', who beat CTC 'B' by 1 min 54 secs.

Non-RM teams are actively encouraged to participate in next year's race.

Spectacular throws win referee's praise

SHIPS at sea and deployed Royal Marines hit entries to this year's RN Judo Association championships – but the standard of competition drew praise from the senior official, writes WO(PT) Vic Parsons.

Only 22, including several new faces, put in an appearance, but there was plenty of exuberance on display as few of the preliminary bouts went the full distance.

One of the most pleasing aspects was that a lot of contests were decided by impressive and entertaining big throwing techniques.

In the heavier weights, spectacular throws impressed the British Judo Association officials, with the senior official and international referee saying that it was some of the best judo he had seen since his return from Japan.

The women's competition featured only three contestants, but it proved as hard-fought as the men's event, with WAEM Wood (HMS Illustrious) emerging as winner.

The Inter-Unit and Inter-Command team events were also run, with teams of five in a catch weight system, and both were

three-way contests – Fleet/Air beat Portsmouth and the Royals in one, and HMS Sultan topped RM Plymouth and HMS Vanguard in the other, the latter being the first time for years a ship had entered.

The first of the final bouts lasted only seconds, with LOM Mackinnon-Winters (HMS Vanguard) catching WO Parsons with a near-perfect leg-sweep for ten points.

Navy secretary/coach Vic Parsons (HMS Temeraire) again came away empty-handed in the veterans' event, when the RN's most senior and experienced player, CPO John Thacker (Vanguard), prevailed.

The Open final went to AEM James Clement, who beat Vic Parsons with a spectacular throw. **Winners: Men U66kg: Mid Beeharry (Sussex URNU); U81kg: AEM Clement (HMS Heron); U90kg: Sgt Waite (45 Cdo); O90kg: LOM Mackinnon-Winters (Vanguard); Ladies' Open: WAEM Wood (Illustrious); Senior Open: AEM Clement; Novice Open: PO Bowen (HMS Sultan); Veteran Open: CPO Thacker (Vanguard); Inter-Unit: HMS Sultan; Inter-Command: Fleet/Air.**

For details of RN judo contact WO Parsons at HMS Temeraire, Burnaby Rd, Portsmouth PO1 2HB



● Grapple fans – action from the RN judo championships.

Picture: Nigel Huxtable.

RN yacht takes honours

NAVY yacht Adventure has put herself right back in the frame for the Transglobe 98 round-the-world yacht race with a clear win on Leg 6.

The yacht reached Rio de Janeiro a good day ahead of her nearest rival, and with just two more legs to go, the three Service entries are level-pegging.

The penultimate leg – from Rio to St Maarten in the Caribbean – was due to get under way as *Navy News* went to press.

But because the sailing dates have been brought forward, four of the Navy's 12-strong crew have had to drop out of Feeder Leg 2 – the final leg of the race.

Organisers would like to hear from possible replacements, who could fly out to St Maarten from the UK on October 25 and sail the yacht back to the UK, arriving at the end of November.

The cost is £300, which covers flights, accommodation and food. If you are interested, contact Transglobe logistics co-ordinator Keren Lowe on 01705 765003.

Crew selection has been something of a headache, with rules governing the composition in terms of ratio of experienced yachtsmen, with correct 'tickets', to novices who provide the muscle.

And with protests from earlier legs still to be examined, it is difficult

to say who has the edge in the overall rankings.

But for the crews, there are more important considerations.

"Every single leg has been a challenge, for the crews as individuals and as teams," said Keren.

"The boats have on occasions taken a tremendous hammering – but that was expected, because this is a race, not a cruise."

Ring in the new

NAVAL boxing for the new millennium has been charted at the RN Boxing Association's annual meeting.

Although Portsmouth remains the centre of excellence, planning permission has been granted for conversion of a building at HMS Drake into a new Plymouth Command boxing gym.

And figures indicate that interest in boxing across the Navy is growing.

Portsmouth has a strong stable of 30 boxers under CPO Kev Hay (Sultan ext 3186) and POPT Q Shillingford (Dryad x 4574), while Plymouth has 35 coached by WEM Jan Lawson (Drake x 65375).

Scottish boxing is nurtured by POPT Losh (Neptune x 3547), while Air Command contacts are LPT Glen Kavanagh (Seahawk 2654) and LPT Patilla (Heron x 6712).

Information on Fleet boxing is available from WO(PT) Tommy Johnson (9380 24423).

The Portsmouth Command novice championships is on October 7 at HMS Nelson gymnasium, with the Plymouth event at the Wyvern Centre at HMS Drake on October 14 – also the venue for the RN novice championships on November 18.

The Combined Services championships will be at HMS Nelson on February 16-17.

LAND-ROVER
NEW DISCOVERY
5 Cylinder high performance Diesel
Park Lane
0171-514 0400

zippo® Lighters
with your crest
Minimum order 50



For full details complete the coupon below and send to:

ZIPPO UK LTD. Unit 27, Grand Union Centre, 336B Ladbroke Grove, London W10 5AS Tel: 0181 9640666 Fax: 0181 9680400

Please send me full details about how to obtain Zippo lighters with my Ships crest

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____



● Exalted company – Royal Navy umpire Lt Cdr Graham Price accompanies renowned Test match umpire Dickie Bird out to the square at the start of the Combined Services match against Sir Paul Getty's XI at Wormsley. Lt Cdr Price (FONA) is a member of the RN Cricket Umpires and Scorers Association. The match ended as a draw, though there was a close finish. The Services – with five RN and Royal Marines players – posted 230 for 5, and the invitation XI, featuring two First Class New Zealand openers and a Zimbabwean Test spinner, ended six runs short with two wickets in hand

In brief

Defeat in the desert

HMS BIRMINGHAM's rugby team lost to a strong RAF Detachment Ali al Salem on a sand pitch in Kuwait.

The sailors started stronger, but the airmen – augmented by a couple of British expatriates – took the lead. Slack tackling allowed the destroyer team to pull level, but the RAF side finished strongly, winning 34-5.

Army prevail

THE ARMY proved too strong for the Navy's rugby league side in the Inter-Services championships at Burnaby Road.

The visitors' superiority was confirmed with a try in the first ten minutes, and the soldiers' constant pressure resulted in a half-time lead of 22-0.

After a demonstration of touch rugby by Portsmouth area cadet units, the Navy came out fired up and took the game to the Army – but fell further behind.

Navy pressure finally found gaps to exploit, but the Army remained out of reach, winning 32-18.

Row test

THE RN and RM indoor rowing championships is to be held at HMS Temeraire in Portsmouth on October 21, featuring individual and team events.

Full details are published in DCI RN 117/99, and entry is free. Application forms, from the DCI or PTIs, should be sent to DNPTS.

Pitch in

NAVY teams are invited to participate in the Monday night Portsmouth corporate six-a-side football league, which starts this month.

Details from Angus Taylor or William Hodgkinson on 01937 573933.

RUGBY UNION

ROYAL NAVY V THE ARMY

at

Twickenham

Saturday 6th May 2000

K.O. 14.45

TICKETS AND COACH PASSES ON SALE FROM 1 JANUARY 2000

TICKET HOTLINE 0870 4446633

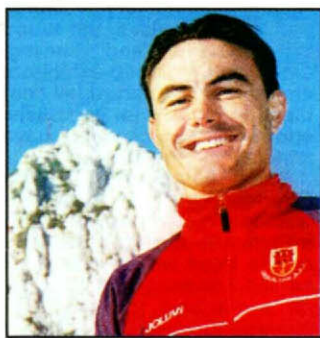
RNRU SHOP HAS MANY ITEMS FOR SALE,

WEAR THEM ON THE DAY -

CONTACT COLIN PRIDE

01326 552194 or 01822 834297 FOR PRICE LIST

Sport



LPT runs in Island Games

NAVY man Mickey Breed ran in the colours of Gibraltar in the NatWest Island Games – and nearly bagged a medal.

LPT Breed (above), one of the tri-Service PT team on the Rock, ran in the 800 metres, and was second-fastest qualifier for the final.

But a blistering pace on the first lap left him with too much to do, and he was one of three contesting the bronze medal as he crossed the line, being awarded fifth place.

A record 2,000 competitors from 22 islands, as far apart as Greenland and the Falklands, competed in the biennial event, held in Gotland, which is a mini-Olympics for islands with a population under 250,000.

Mickey, an RN and Combined Services runner, was supported by the Gibraltar Sports Association, the Gibraltar Naval Trust, and the Head of the Tri-Service PT Staff, WO1 (SMI) Brown.

RNFA gears up for big launch

THE ROYAL Navy Football Association has almost completed its major overhaul, and is all set for a re-launch this month.

Making its debut 95 years ago, the association was introduced to encourage the development of football in the Senior Service, and to maximise the opportunities for participation at all levels and in all areas, on and off the field.

The redevelopment of the Royal Navy's football organisation is a bold bid to kick it into the 21st century.

The relaunch will see the association updating its views, news and position in the world of football, thus creating greater interest from not only supporters of Navy football, but also the players at all levels of the game.

Among the benefits offered by the updated club are exclusive membership privileges such as merchandise discounts, access to both Premiership and national match tickets, a quarterly newsletter

and a high-quality club handbook containing information on Service life and the football world.

The relaunch is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, October 12, at Devonport Naval Base in Plymouth.

If you would like further information on how to join the RNFA, please contact Mhari-Louise Teden, RNFA, PO Box 232236, Edinburgh EH7 4ZH, telephone 0131 478 4403.



Midwinter cricket

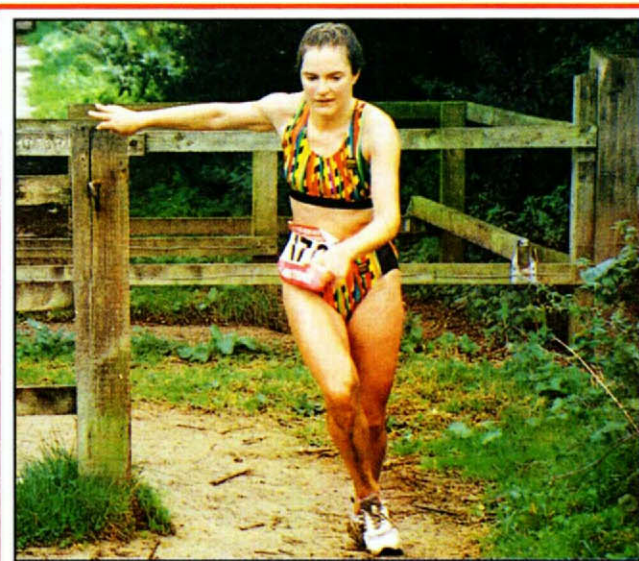
AN INTRODUCTORY weekend covering coaching, umpiring and scoring has been arranged at HMS Temeraire in Portsmouth for Royal Navy women cricketers.

A personal invitation for the weekend, in the form of a questionnaire, will shortly be distributed.

But in the meantime, further

information on the course, which will concentrate on the coaching aspects, can be obtained from Lt Cdr Danks on Portsmouth Naval Base extension 22671 or POPT Paul Nash on Portsmouth Naval Base ext 23974.

The weekend is planned for Saturday and Sunday, February 5-6, next year.



● On the run – PO Vicki Norton negotiates an obstacle.

Vicki leads the way

NAVY triathletes have had a mixed season – but two competitors have proved themselves in international circles.

PO Vicki Norton (CTCRM) represented England in the Home Countries event, and won GB honours in Sweden, and there are high hopes of more to come.

Lt Cdr Peter Walker (CTCRM) continued his long-distance campaign, having competed for GB in Sweden and the Netherlands at the

Ironman distance.

Cpl Paul Timmons (CTCRM), the Service champion, came fourth in the Wolverhampton Ironman.

The RN also bagged inter-Service honours, with the ladies' champion (Vicki Norton), the ladies' team trophy and the 'old men's trophy'.

Details of training weekends and afternoons are available from Lt Cdr Roger Saynor, on HMS Temeraire ext 22590.

RN yachting team stands out



A STRONG Naval presence at the RS national Sailing championships was emphasised by the RN yachts' distinctive White Ensign spinnakers.

A total of 16 RN boats competed in the RS 200, RS 400 and RS 600 classes, with some fleets featuring more than 100 yachts.

Star of the Navy team was Lt Dan Vincent (HMS Sultan), who in the first part of the week sailed an RS 600, a single-handed trapeze boat, and finished 5th out of 60, taking line honours in the last race.

He then took the helm of an RS 400 with Hugh Reynolds, and helm of an RS 200 boat, finishing 16th out of 120.

The Senior Service's 200 fleet, supported by Navy sailing coach C/Sgt Graham Forshaw, was led by Lt Sam Mettems (RNR) and LS(D) Richie Bailey, who have travelled round the UK and Europe to gain valuable experience.

● Flying the flag – the RN team's White Ensign spinnaker stands out in the busy waters off Weymouth.

Our man takes on TT circuit

FLYING the flag for Navy News, Cdr Tom Quaye had a good outing in the Manx Grand Prix motorcycle races.

The annual event on the Isle of Man TT circuit has been run since 1923, and this year attracted 350 competitors from all over the world, having become the premier venue for classic motorcycle racing – catering for machines built before 1973.

Cdr Quaye, of HMS Sultan, started the Classic Junior Manx Grand Prix in 12th place in a field of 70 – the result of eight days of practice and qualifying.

The Navy man was 12th after three of the four laps but a machine problem forced him to slow and he finished the 151-mile race 14th – an average speed of over 91mph, winning himself a replica of the winner's trophy.

Two other RN Motor Cycle Club members, Sgt Ian Weston and Cliff Shorter, also competed, and the club provided mechanics.

In addition to Navy News, Cdr Quaye is supported by Bernard Saunders of Gloucester, Retromech of Fareham and the RN Motor Sports Association.



● Our man – Cdr Tom Quaye on the TT circuit.

Picture: Simon Lee of The Picture Box.

LOW LOW LINE RENTAL & FREE CONNECTION



CHOICE OF 4 COLOUR FRONTS

Subject to a 12 month contract including notice period. Calls 30p peak per min and 10p off peak & 2p weekend.

FREE CONNECTION WORTH £35
FREE £15 WORTH OF CALLS PER MONTH
FREE NOKIA 5110* WORTH £19.99
FREE PORTABLE HANDS FREE KIT WORTH £19.99
FREE CARRY CASE WORTH £14.99
FREE IN CAR CHARGING LEAD WORTH £17.99
PLUS 10% OFF YOUR 10 FAVORITE NUMBERS PEAK
PLUS 50% OFF YOUR 10 FAVORITE NUMBERS OFF PEAK
PLUS 3% OFF ALL CALLS ON CELLNETS FIRST PROGRAMME
NO CREDIT CHECKS

* Subject to availability

MOBILES DIRECT **FREEPHONE 0800 018 8200** PLEASE HAVE YOUR BANK DETAILS HANDY WHEN PHONING

SKIWORLD

Basic prices include

- Self catering apartment accommodation beside pistes
- 6 day Espace Killy lift pass
- Excellent winter sports insurance
- 1 free place per 10 paying
- Discounted kit hire & lessons
- Chance to book Xmas & New Year!!!

VAL D'ISERE

A SPECIAL OFFER FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL, FAMILY & FRIENDS

11-18 December 1999

£239 self drive

£319 by coach

£399 by air

DISCOUNTS OFF MAIN BROCHURE PACKAGES FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL

0171 602 0722
 navy@skiworld.ltd.uk



Sorrento rampage reports 'not true'

TWO SAILORS from the destroyer HMS Edinburgh were fined after an incident in Italy – but press reports of serious trouble at Sorrento involving rampaging, drunken, British sailors have been strenuously denied.

The men were fined £300 each and given eight-month suspended prison sentences after admitting stealing a car and failing to stop after an accident.

A Navy spokesman said the pair, who are now back on duty, faced further consequences under Naval discipline.

The destroyer was in Naples as part of Exercise Argonaut deployment, and some sailors were reported to have booked accommodation in Sorrento. But the spokesman said there had been no reports of violence or trouble other than the car incident.

■ Exercise Argonaut report and pictures – page 4.

Middleton given a thousand welcomes

OVER 1,000 people turned up when fishery protection ship HMS Middleton was opened to visitors during the August Bank Holiday weekend at Brixham.

Among the crowds who toured the 750-ton, 57 metre-long, Hunt-class vessel was the Mayor, who exchanged gifts with the ship's Commanding Officer, Lt Cdr Richard Thomas.

Middleton, which has been a member of the Fishery Protection Squadron since the spring, also hosted many members of the community for the town's annual trawler race in Torbay.

And on the day after leaving Brixham, her divers were able to help a local vessel whose propeller had been fouled by wires.

This autumn Middleton is due to visit Hamburg and next month will transit the Manchester Ship Canal to renew her affiliation with Rochdale.

GLASGOW ON GUARD

■ From front page

Commanding Officer, Cdr John King, said that when the combined Australian, British and New Zealand task force had left Darwin, they had sailed into the unknown – uncertain as to how the Indonesian military and militias would react.

But early indications were that the thousands of UN troops landing in East Timor were being greeted peacefully.

"Our message to our families at home is that they are not to be worried about us operating in this part of the world," he said. "We have been conducting joint exercises with the Australian and New Zealanders for some time now, and are used to operating with them."

In fact, Glasgow's Lynx pilot, Lt Tod Glynn, must feel especially at home – he's an Australian on exchange with the Royal Navy.

But while armed conflict was not being anticipated, Glasgow and the other ships of the force were taking

Big crowds boost Navy Days future



OVER 50,000 people attended Plymouth Navy Days on August Bank Holiday weekend, securing the event for the foreseeable future, and raising hopes that it could evolve into a larger maritime festival.

Cornerstone of this year's event was the carrier HMS Illustrious, which stood in for HMS Ocean at short notice after that ship's operational programme changed as a result of the Kosovo crisis.

And organisers are in no doubt that the three-evening tattoo and the opening up of Devonport base's heritage area also contributed heavily to this year's success.

Naval Base Commander, Commodore Jonathon Reeve, said: "This was a Navy Days waterfront packed and dominated by the glistening, grey

ships of the Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary... the air and water displays, the tattoo, the museum and heritage areas, and over 100 exhibitors, charities and caterers, all combined to provide an impressive and hugely successful naval festival."

Base liaison officer Cdr Charles Crichton said: "It would be nice to make it part of a Plymouth maritime festival – one to three weeks that would be like Edinburgh Festival, but on a maritime theme. It's all here, it's just a matter of pulling it together."

■ Among the visitors to Navy Days was World War II German veteran Gunther Dellenbusch. Herr Dellenbusch, a survivor of the sinking of the battleship Tirpitz, spent several hours touring Illustrious, and was afterwards presented with a picture of the ship.

● AEM Dave Howe of 820 Naval Air Squadron, embarked in HMS Illustrious, keeps an eye on a young visitor to Navy Days during a flying display.

Hurricane group wins peace prize

ROYAL Navy ships which suddenly found themselves forming a disaster task group have been awarded the RN Wilkinson Sword for Peace for 1998.

HMS Ocean was heading for pre-operational trials in the Caribbean when Hurricane Mitch hit Nicaragua and Honduras in Central America.

With a need for urgent humanitarian relief work, Ocean suddenly found herself leading an ad hoc task group, comprising Type 22 frigate HMS Sheffield, tanker RFA Black Rover and landing ship RFA Sir Tristram, on Operation Teller.

Ground forces came from 45 Commando Group Royal Marines, with its integral assault engineers and a company of Dutch Marines, while air support was provided by 845 and 847 Naval Air Squadrons and HMS Sheffield's Lynx of 815 Naval Air Squadron.

The official citation notes that

the hurricane had caused so much disruption that communication with the outside world was poor, and it was some days before relief agencies were alerted.

In contrast, "the immediate and effective reaction of RN and RM units did much to stabilise the situation until the handover to international aid agencies," according to the citation.

"The response of the personnel in the task group to a major regional disaster was swift, professional and inspiring."

Despite hot, humid and arduous conditions, often in hostile jungle,

the broad picture was made more clear by air reconnaissance, and RN personnel provided medical aid, clean drinking water, food and shelter.

Prompt medical treatment of survivors limited an outbreak of gastro-enteritis in one area and prevented a cholera epidemic in another.

Operations at sea also proved challenging, with poorly-charted oceans full of debris, and shallower water thick with coral sediment which caused problems with ships' desalination plants.

The ships picked up 33 at sea,

including a woman, rescued by Sheffield, who had been clinging to a floating tree for six days.

The citation notes that the task group also helped motivate local communities – when fishermen rescued by HMS Ocean were reunited with their families the President of Nicaragua used the story as an example of why his people should not give up hope.

HMS Ocean also hosted parties of press and broadcast media, who helped focus attention on the disaster and resulted in aid pledges to Central America second only to Band-Aid in 1985.



Newcastle's place in the sun

NO SIGN of "fog on the Tyne" as HMS Newcastle began her five-day visit to her affiliated city of Newcastle upon Tyne.

The Type 42 destroyer is pictured arriving in brilliant mid-September sunshine for what is reputedly one of the best runs ashore in Britain.

The Geordie contingent on board was greeted by families and friends waiting on the jetty. There were also 24 fathers on board who had taken passage from Portsmouth with their sons to get a taste of life at sea.

On board, too, for the journey up the Tyne was the Deputy Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Cllr Peter Thomson, who had stepped in in the absence of the Lord Mayor who had been taken ill the previous day.

On September 17 members of the ship's company paraded through the city streets to

the music of a Royal Marines band – and among the weekend events was a trip around the Newcastle Brown brewery.

The ship was open to the public at the weekend, and potential recruits and student groups were hosted on board. Visits were made to the ship's adopted charity, Percy Hedley School for children with cerebral palsy and speech and language difficulties.

The school was presented with the proceeds of fund-raising events organised on board when the destroyer was diverted from the Gulf to the Adriatic this summer.

Her Commanding Officer, Cdr Steve Kenny, said: "The support we received from the city while we were deployed was tremendous and meant a lot to us. It will be great to see as many people as possible at the weekend."

Picture: LA(PHOT) Paul Smith

Scott flag saved for the nation

A LAST-MINUTE deal to save for the nation two important articles used by polar explorers Scott and Shackleton has been pulled off by the National Maritime Museum.

Thanks to a speedily arranged Lottery grant, the museum has acquired Capt Scott's sledging flag and Capt Ernest Shackleton's boat compass. Together they were expected to be sold for up to £35,000 at a Christie's auction on September 17.

An undisclosed sum to buy the items was obtained from the National Heritage Memorial Fund. Other donors included the Friends of the Museum and the UK Antarctic Heritage Fund.

In the sale, which made £313,348 – over £100,000 more than expected – the museum also bought Scott's snow goggles for £20,700. A biscuit from the expedition was bought by polar explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes for £3,910. He plans to give it to the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust.

Also among the 31 lots was a royal standard painted on silk and given to Shackleton by Queen Alexandra. That made a whopping £63,100 – one of the highest sums paid in the sale.

The success of that was not, however, shared in the case of a White Ensign which covered Shackleton's body after he had died of a heart attack in Antarctica.

The flag, worn by his last ship the Quest, was expected to raise up to £30,000 for its owners, the Royal Naval Club in Portsmouth, but it failed to sell, attracting bids of no more than £9,500.

Secretary of the club, John McDermott, said he was disappointed by the result but believed that the ensign would eventually be sold at a higher price – especially with the expected release of an American feature film about Shackleton. Normally the flag is on display at the club.

Gulf illness: Uranium tests in UK

FURTHER tests are to be made on Gulf War veterans in connection with depleted uranium which is contained in some ammunition.

Armed Forces Minister John Spellar said the tests would be carried out on those who have undergone depleted uranium tests in Canada and who are concerned by the results.

